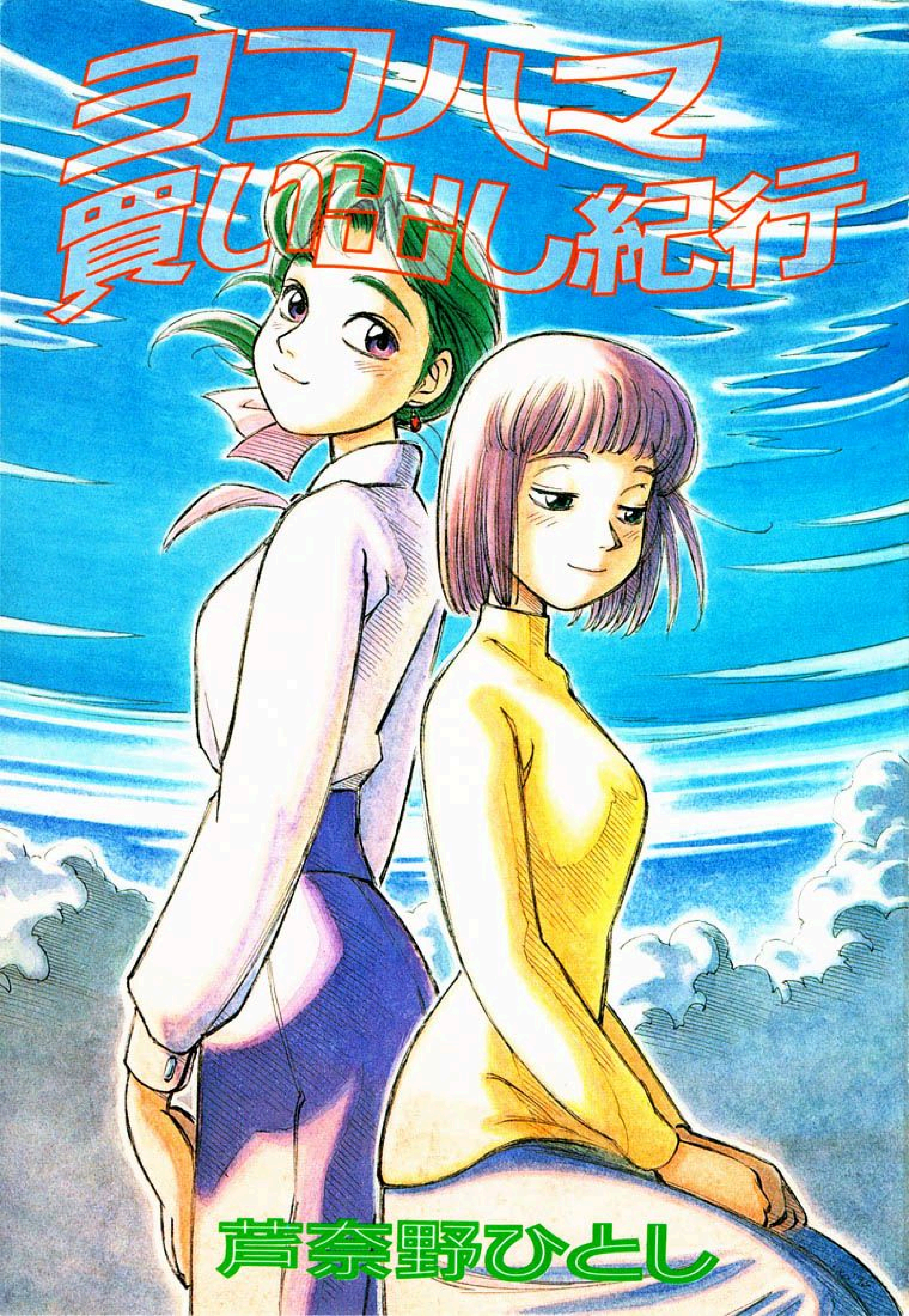

ヨコハマ
買い出し紀行
芦奈野ひとし


Cafe Alpha

# Story 16 Apron



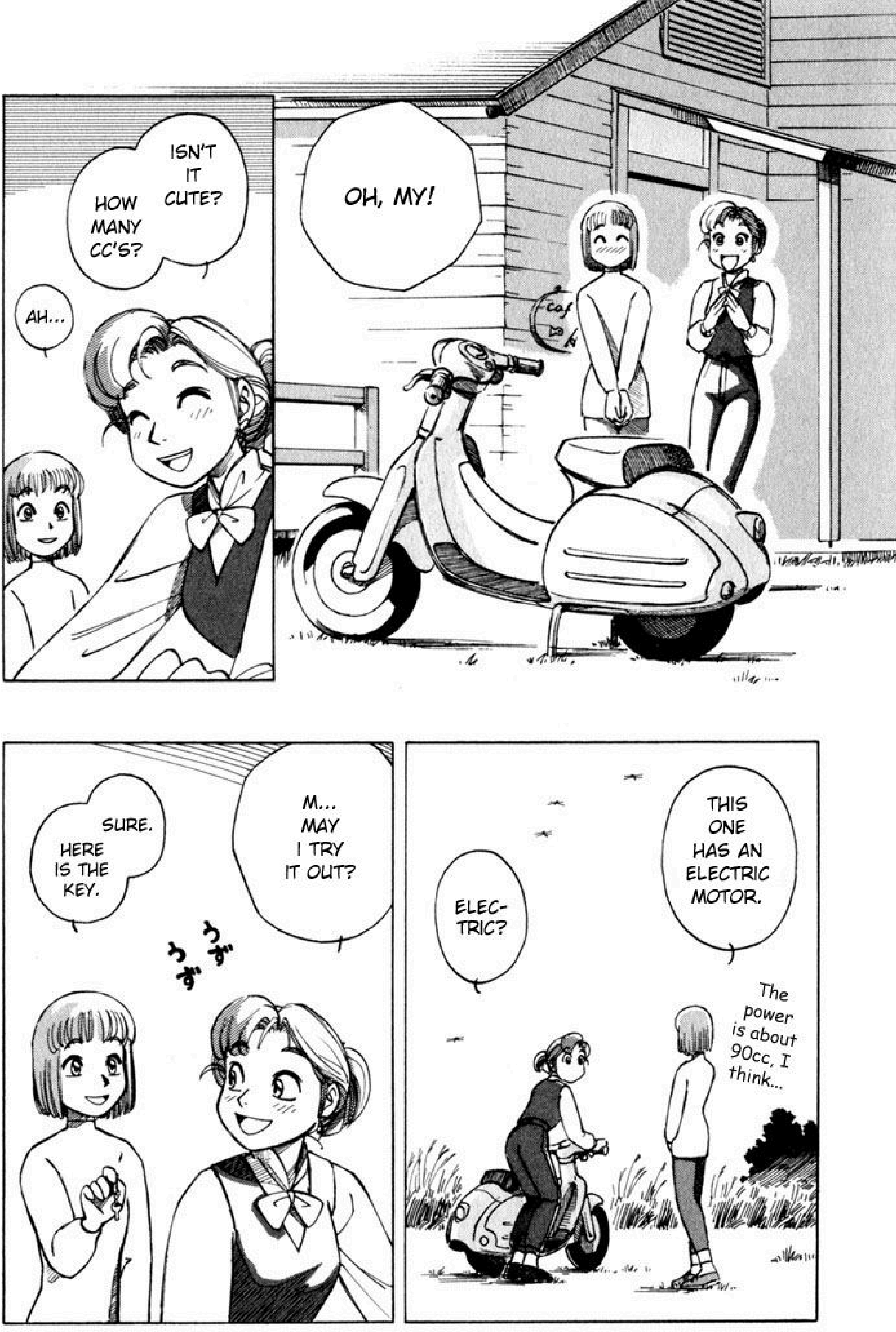

OPEN

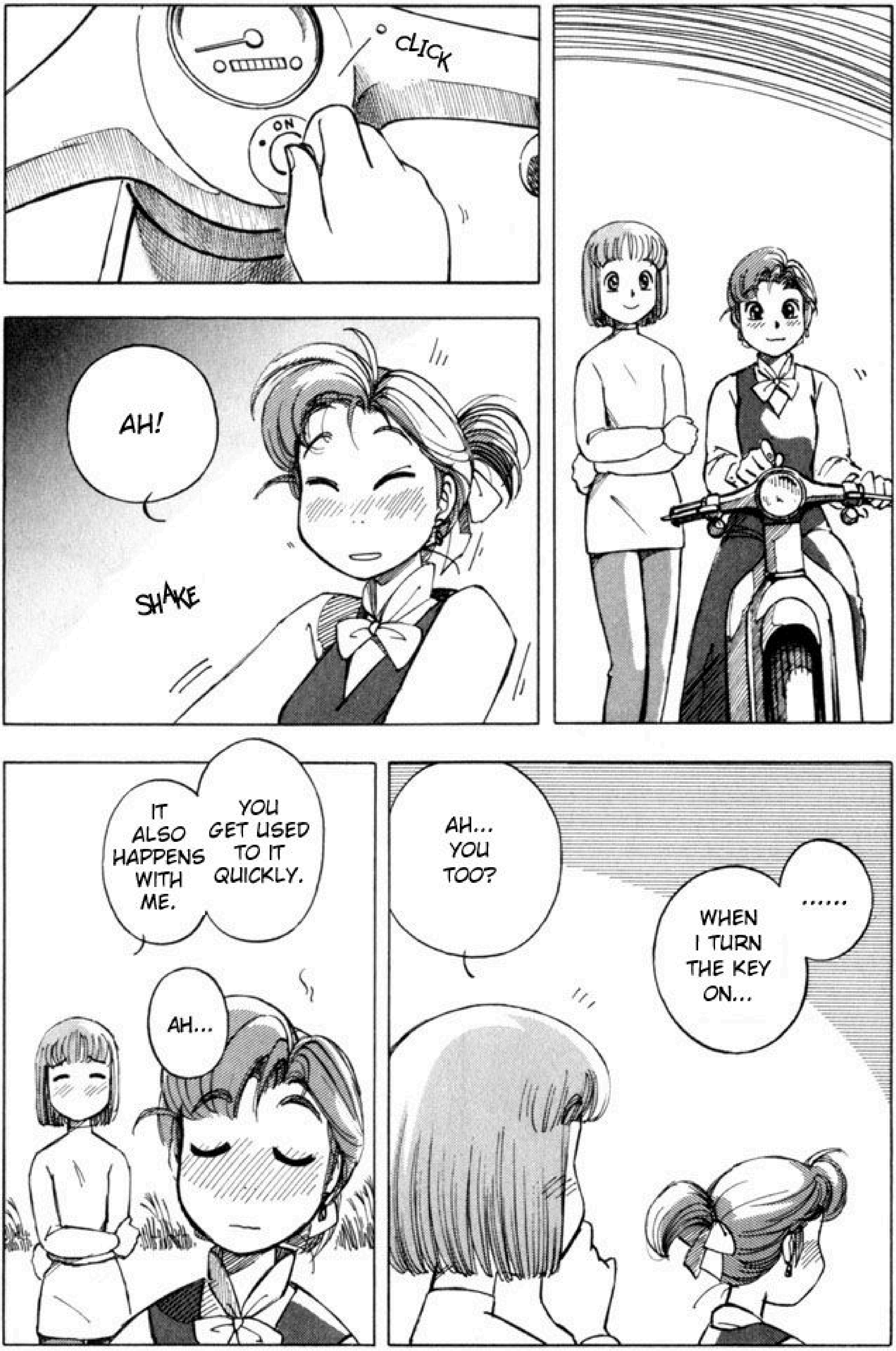

IT MIGHT BE FUN TO GO TO YOKOHAMA AGAIN ONE OF THESE DAYS...
WEL- COME!
CLACK

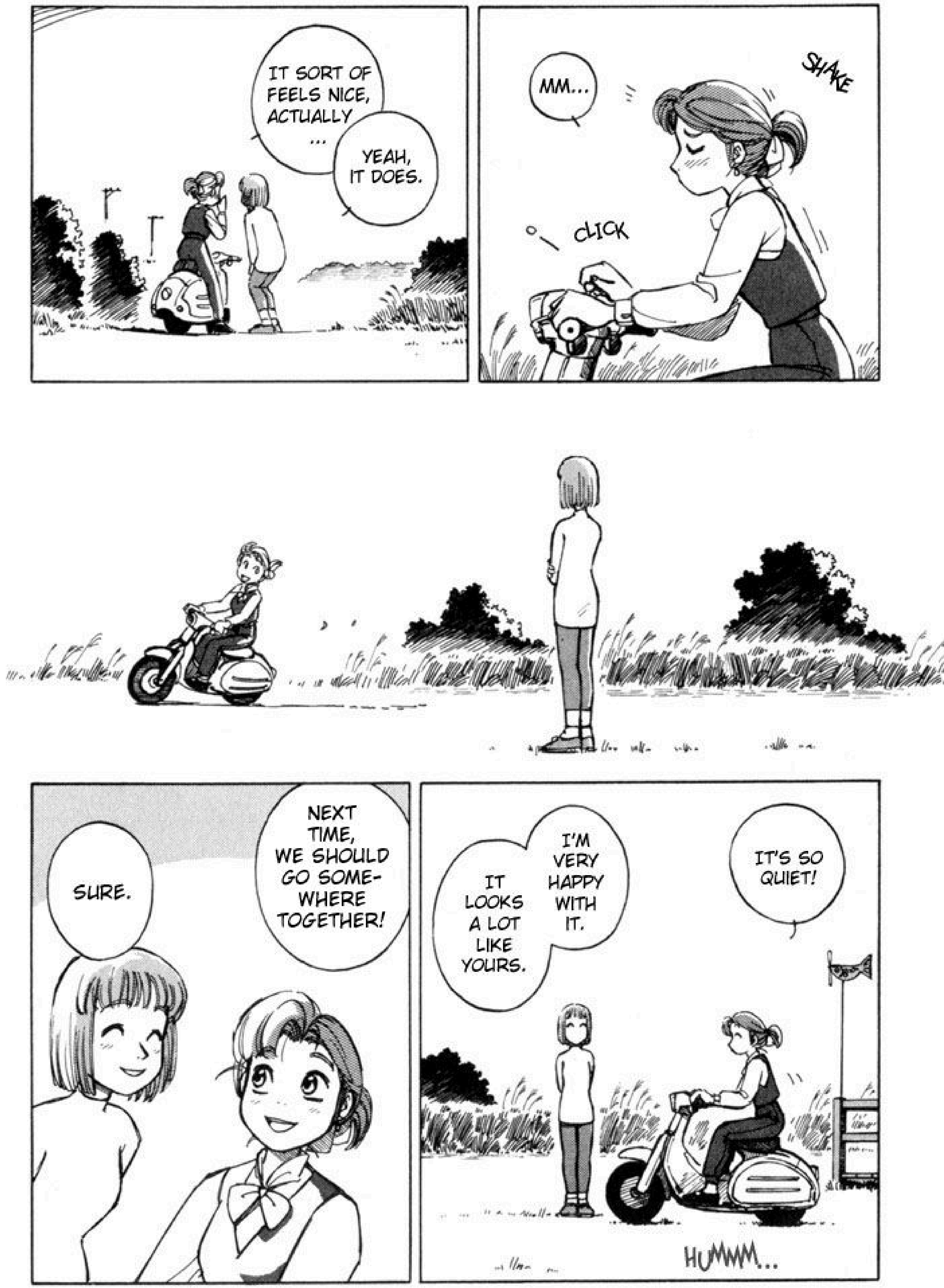

HELLO...
UWAAAH!
UWAAAAAAAAAH!
SHAKE
SHAKE


I HOPE I'M NOT BOTHERING YOU AT WORK.
THIS TIME I'M JUST HERE TO VISIT.
IT'S NO BOTHER AT ALL!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING!
I WAS SO SUPRISED.
AH HA HA... UM...
I SENT YOU A LETTER TEN DAYS AGO...
EH?
AH...
I HAVEN'T CHEKED THE MAIL RECENTLY.
I SEE...


DON'T TELL ME YOU WALKED ALL THE WAY HERE AGAIN.
NO.
I BOUGHT A SCOOTER RECENTLY.
EH!?
LET ME SEE, LET ME SEE!

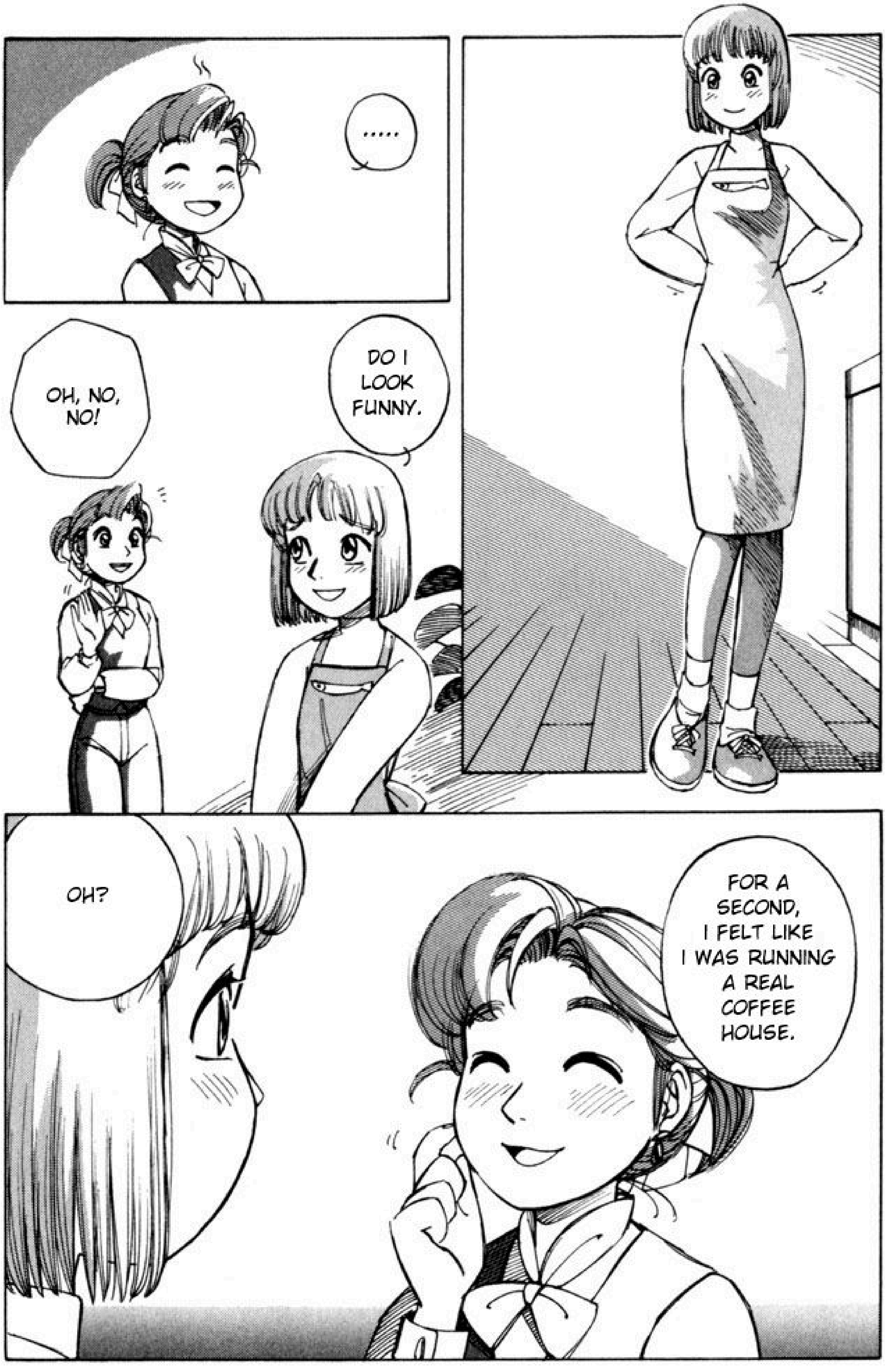

OH, MY!
ISN'T IT CUTE?
HOW MANY CC'S?
AH...
M... MAY I TRY IT OUT?
SURE. HERE IS THE KEY.
うずうず
THIS ONE HAS AN ELECTRIC MOTOR.
ELECTRIC?
The power is about 90cc, I think...

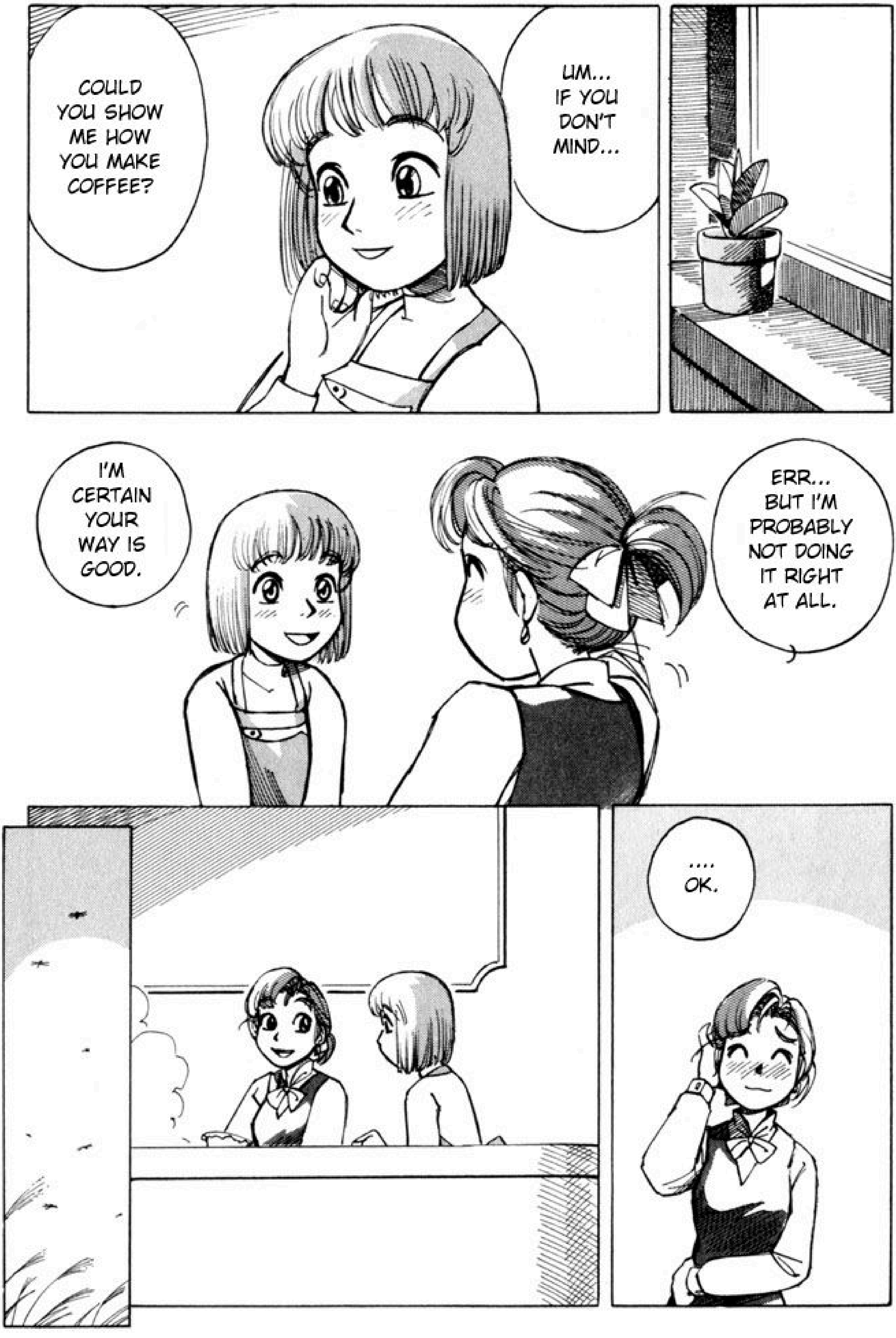

CLICK
AH!
SHAKE
AH... YOU TOO?
WHEN I TURN THE KEY ON...
......
IT ALSO HAPPENS WITH ME.
YOU GET USED TO IT QUICKLY.
AH...


IT SORT OF FEELS NICE, ACTUALLY ...
YEAH, IT DOES.
MM...
SHAKE
CLICK
NEXT TIME, WE SHOULD GO SOME-WHERE TOGETHER!
SURE.
IT'S SO QUIET!
I'M VERY HAPPY WITH IT.
IT LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOURS.
HUMMM...


ERR... DO YOU KNOW ANY GOOD PLACES TO STAY AROUND HERE?
OH, YOU'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT?
YES. AFTER COMING ALL THE WAY HERE,
I WANTED TO TAKE IT EASY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING.
STAY WITH ME!
BESIDES,
THERE AREN'T ANY INNS AROUND HERE ANYWAY ...
BUT...
THAT... I CAN'T...
WELL ...


CAN I HELP OUT SOMEHOW?
I'M OK.
BUT, I DON'T WANT TO JUST SIT HERE.
IT'S NOT AS IF I'M VERY BUSY.
DO YOU WANT TO WEAR AN APRON?
YOU CAN BE MY STANDBY STAFF.
OK.


......
DO I LOOK FUNNY.
OH, NO, NO!
OH?
FOR A SECOND, I FELT LIKE I WAS RUNNING A REAL COFFEE HOUSE.

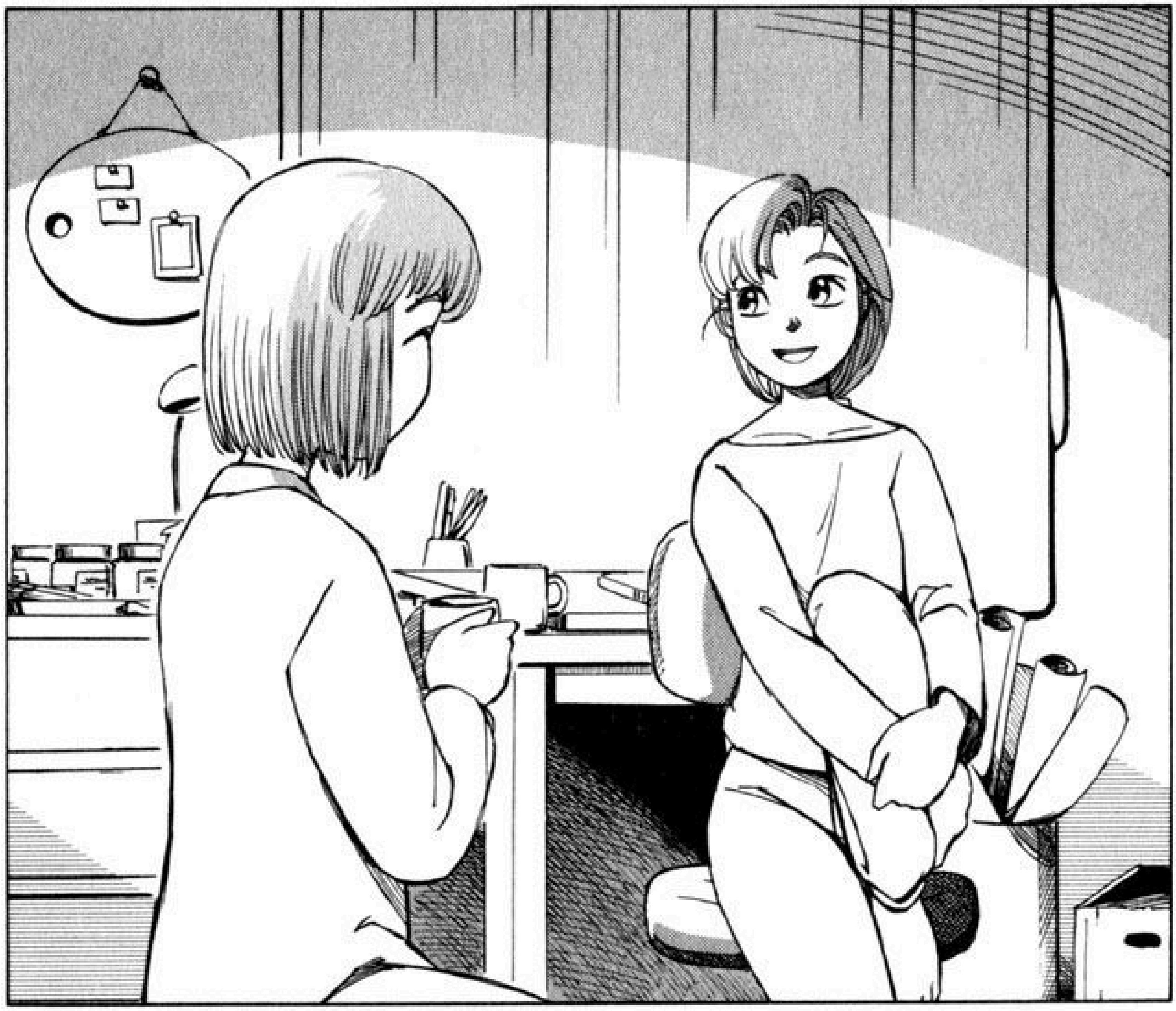

UM... IF YOU DON'T MIND...
COULD YOU SHOW ME HOW YOU MAKE COFFEE?
ERR... BUT I'M PROBABLY NOT DOING IT RIGHT AT ALL.
I'M CERTAIN YOUR WAY IS GOOD.
.... OK.

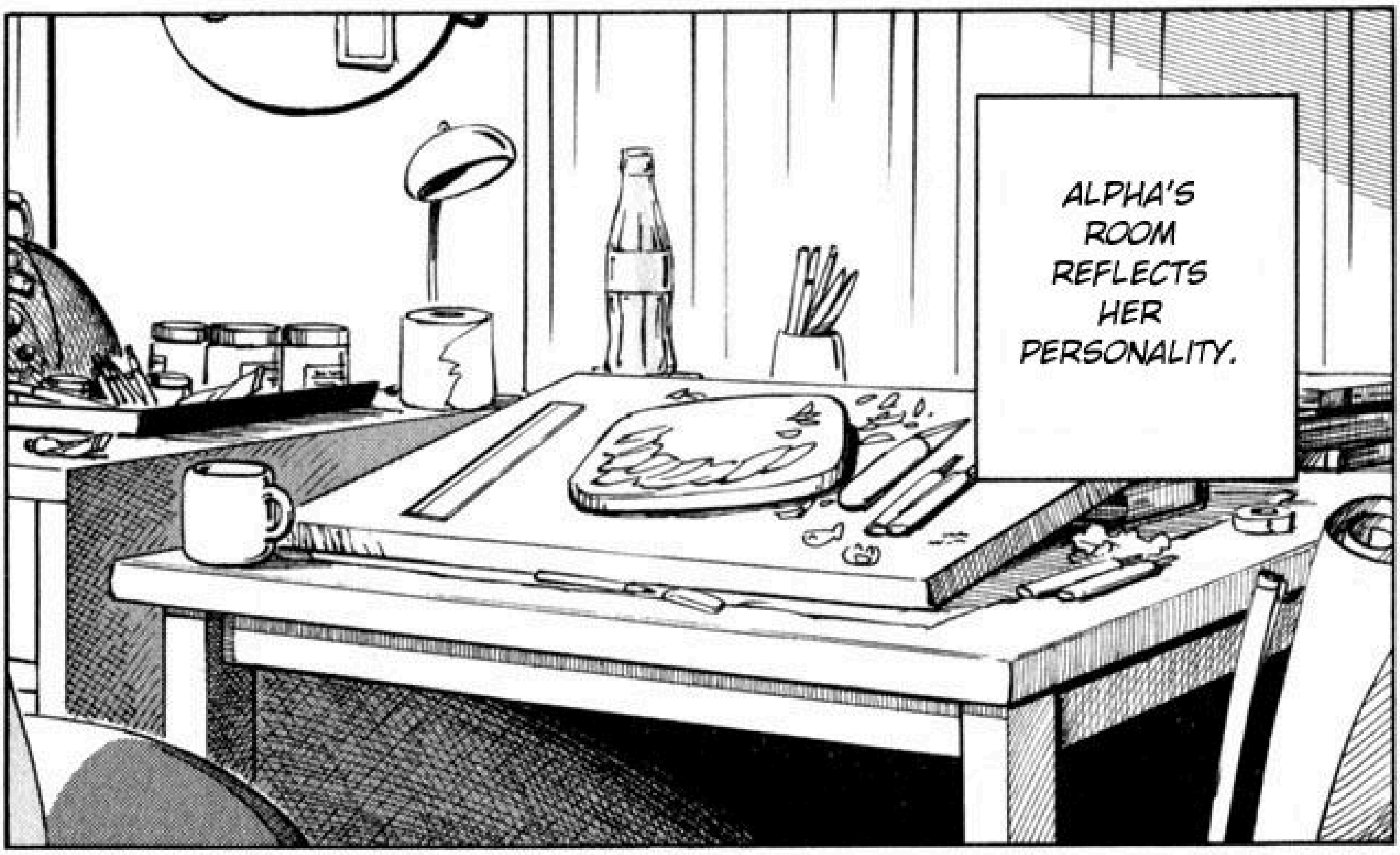

CLACK
YO!

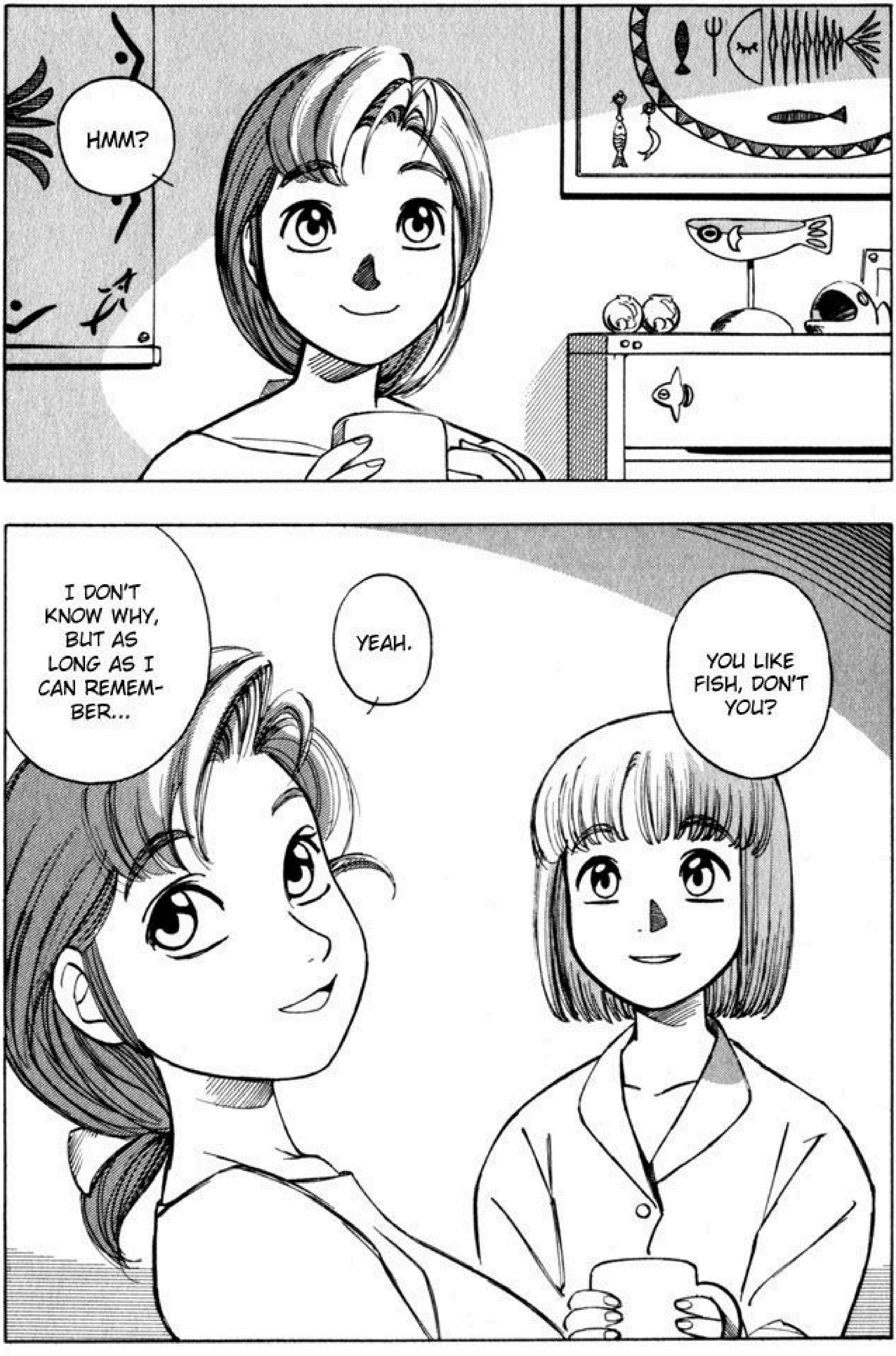

HELLO!
......
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH... NOTHING.
FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT I HAD WALKED INTO A REAL COFFEE HOUSE.
AHH...

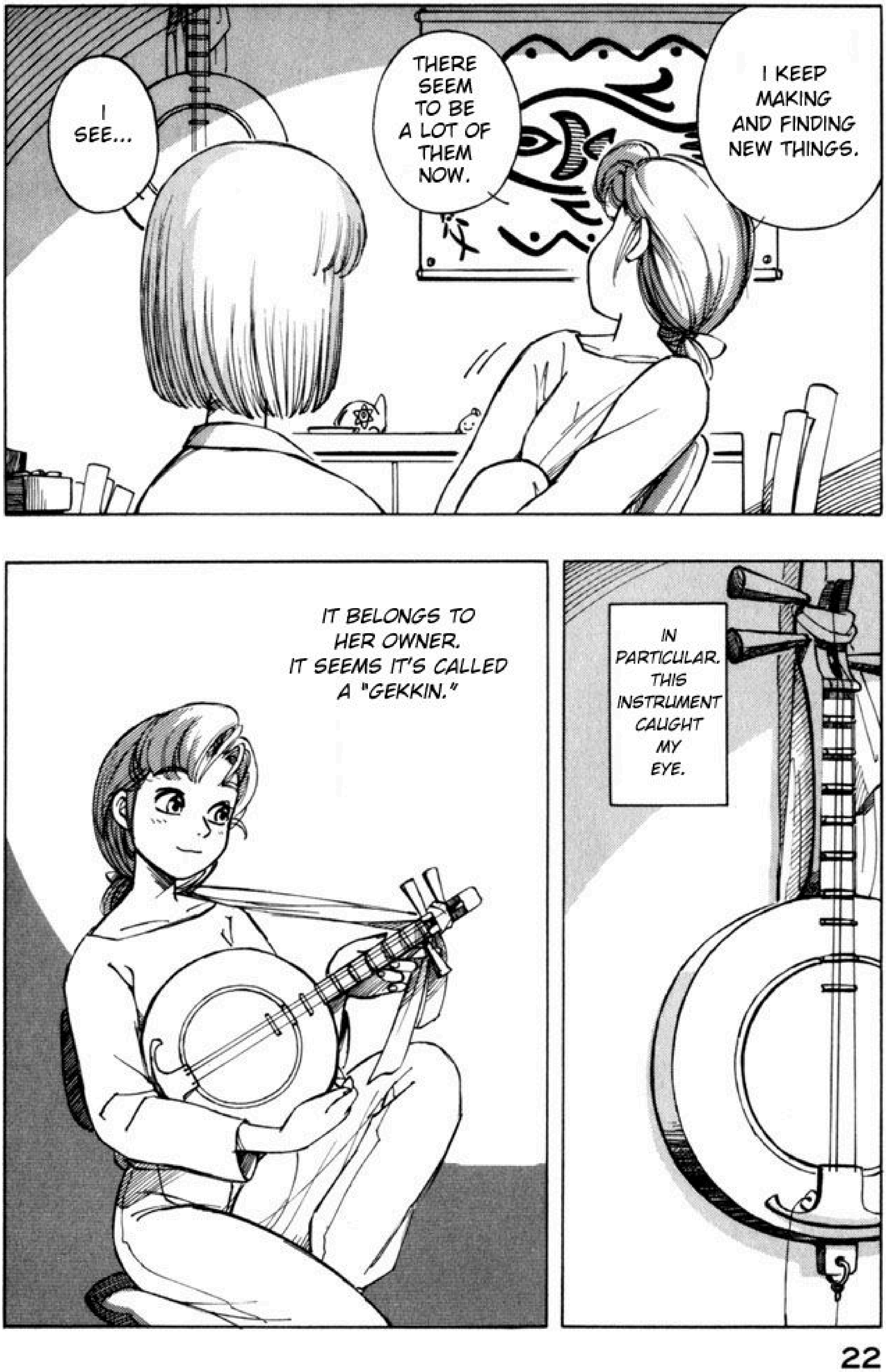

UM... THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ON THE WAY.
おう
OH, YOU'VE MET?
AND SUDDENLY, IT'S A BUSY DAY.
Story 16 - End


Story 17 Waves

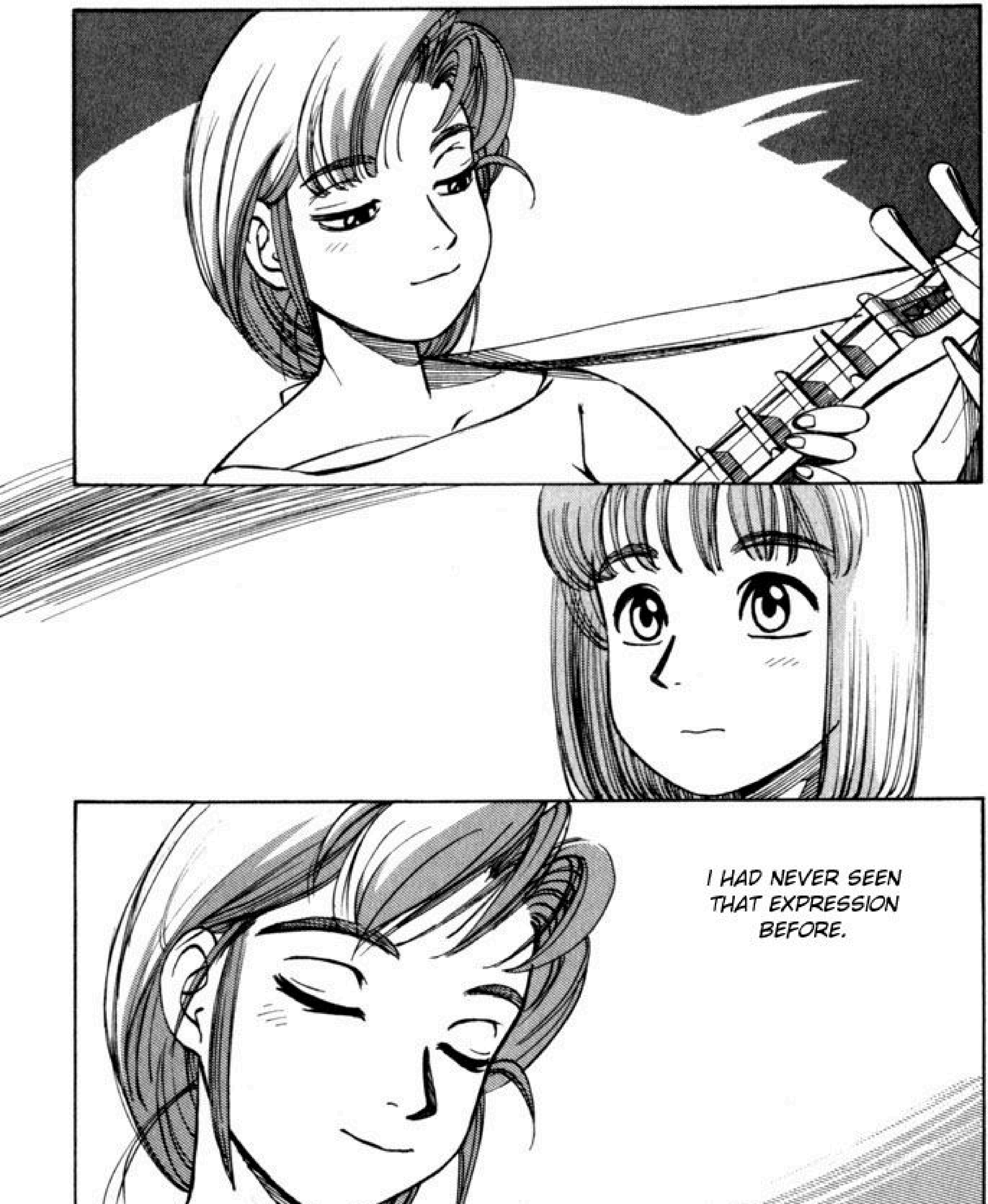


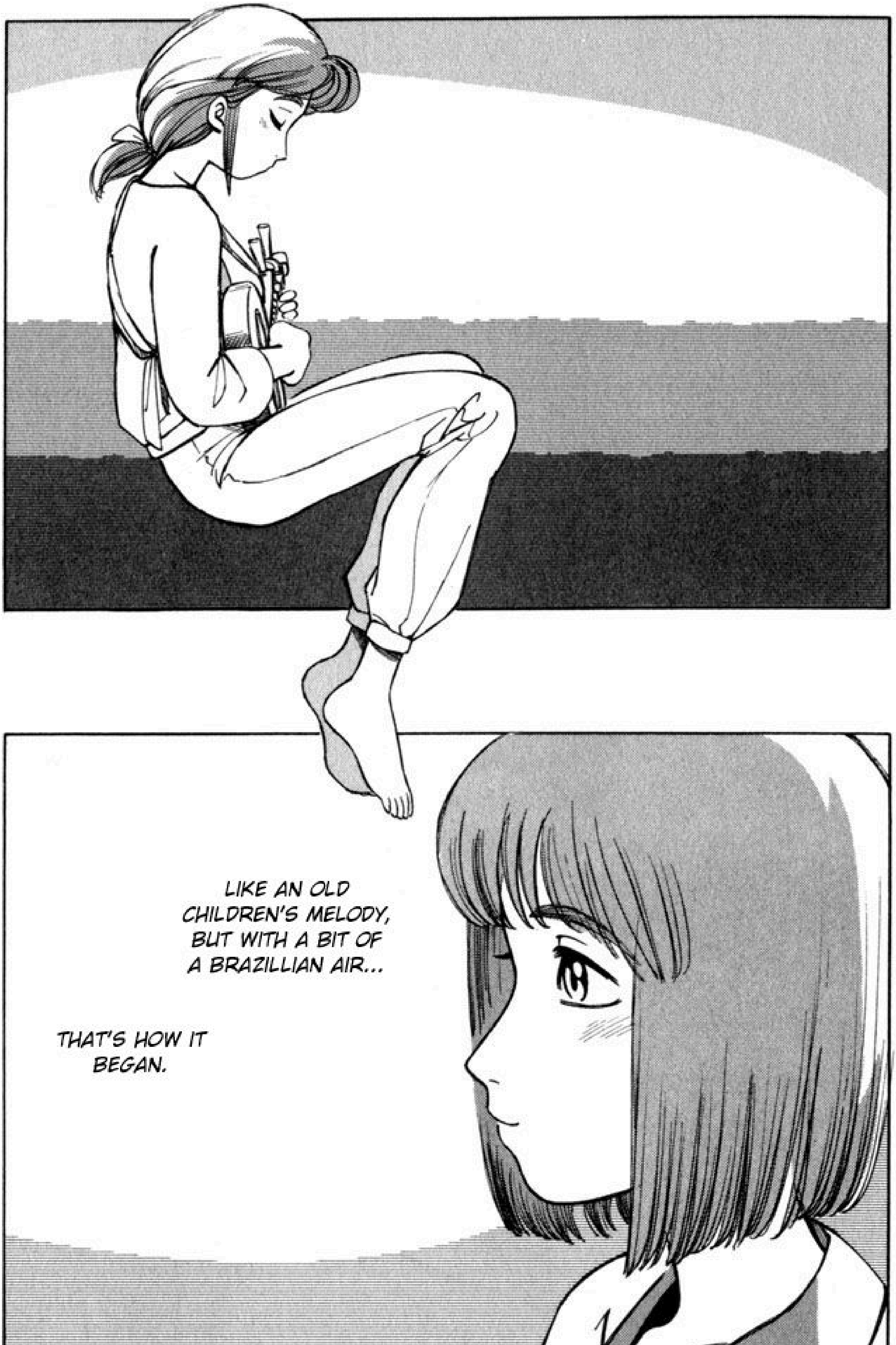

ALPHA'S ROOM REFLECTS HER PERSONALITY.

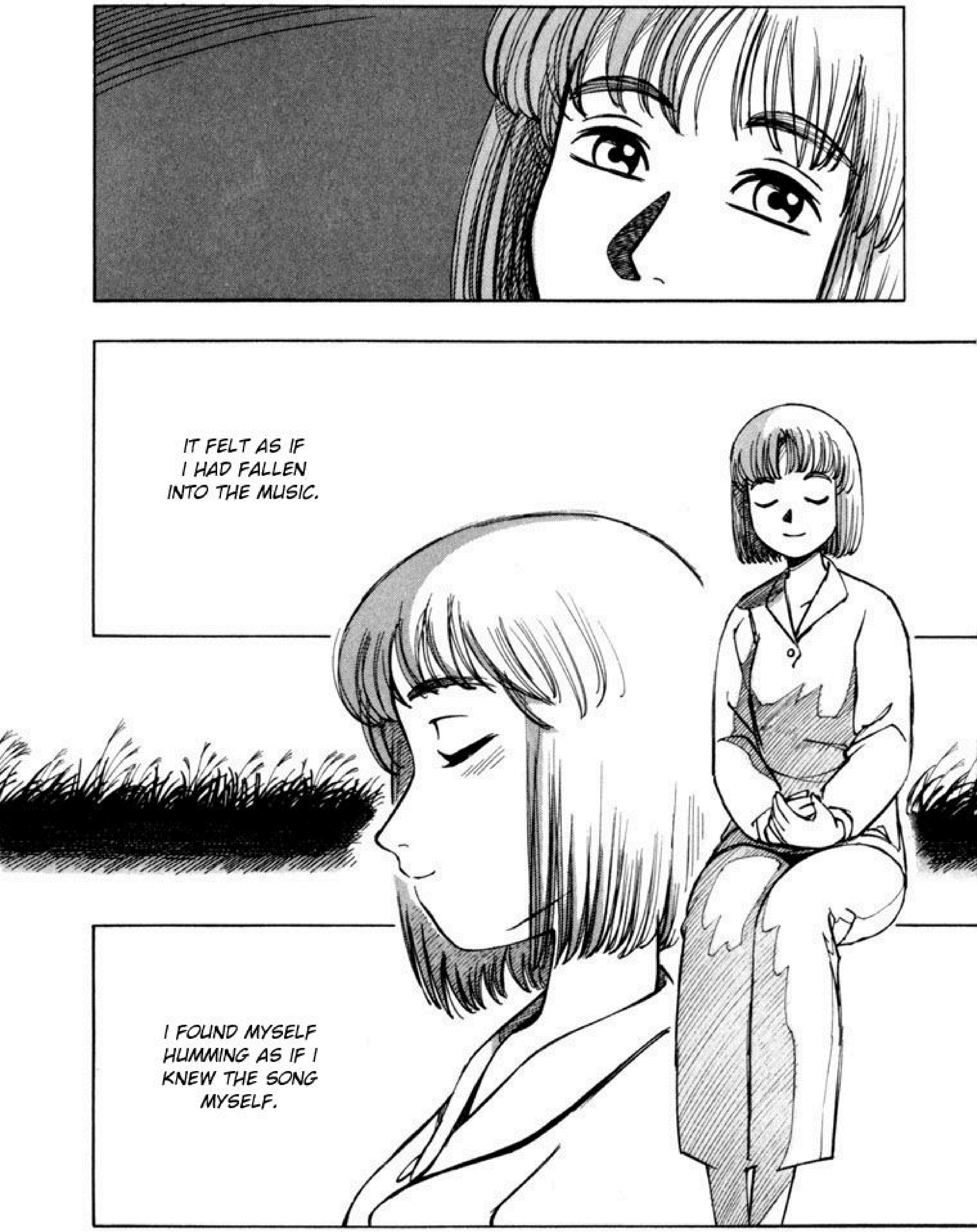

HMM?
YOU LIKE FISH, DON'T YOU?
YEAH.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER...

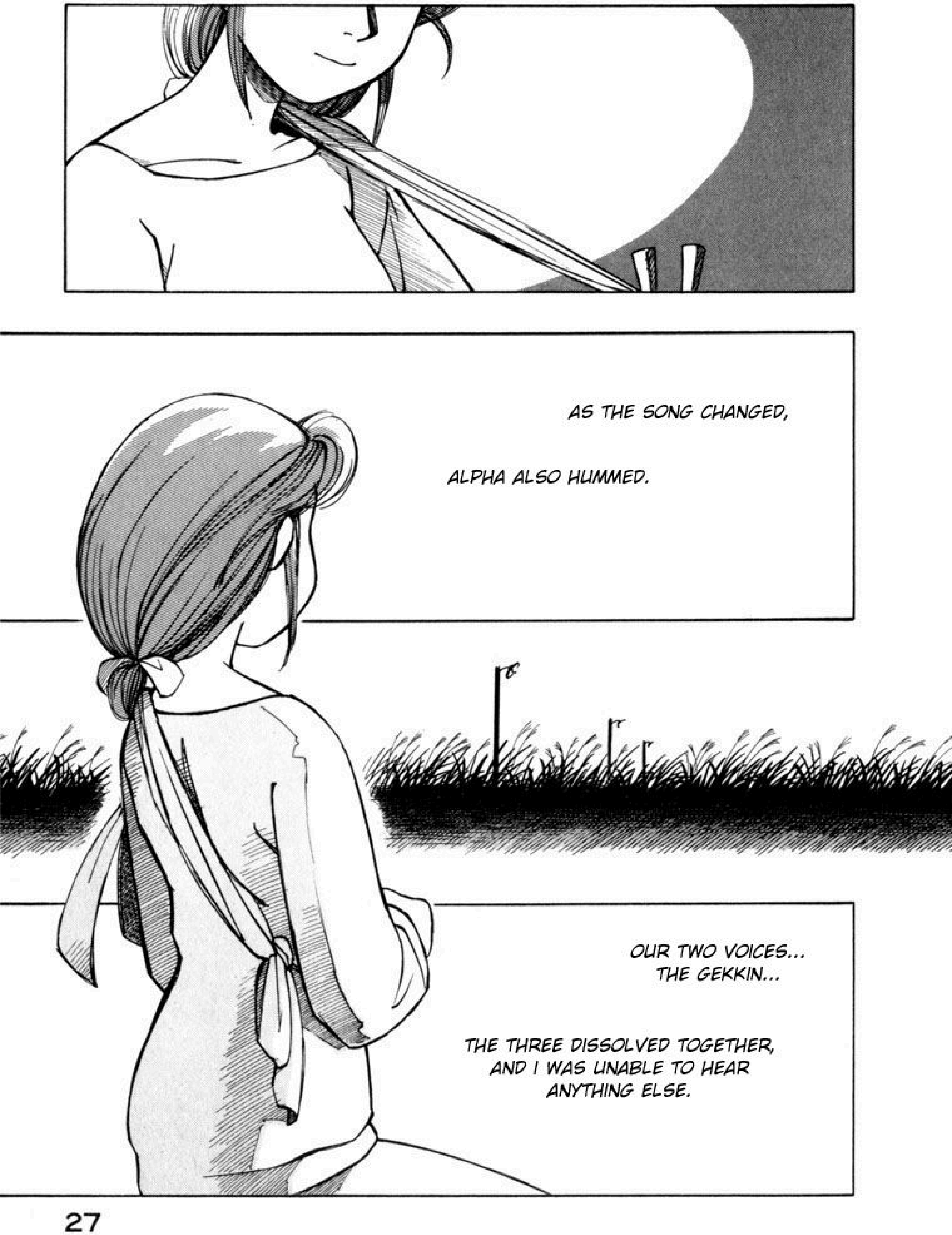

I KEEP MAKING AND FINDING NEW THINGS.
THERE SEEM TO BE A LOT OF THEM NOW.
I SEE...
IN PARTICULAR. THIS INSTRUMENT CAUGHT MY EYE.
IT BELONGS TO HER OWNER. IT SEEMS IT'S CALLED A "GEKKIN."

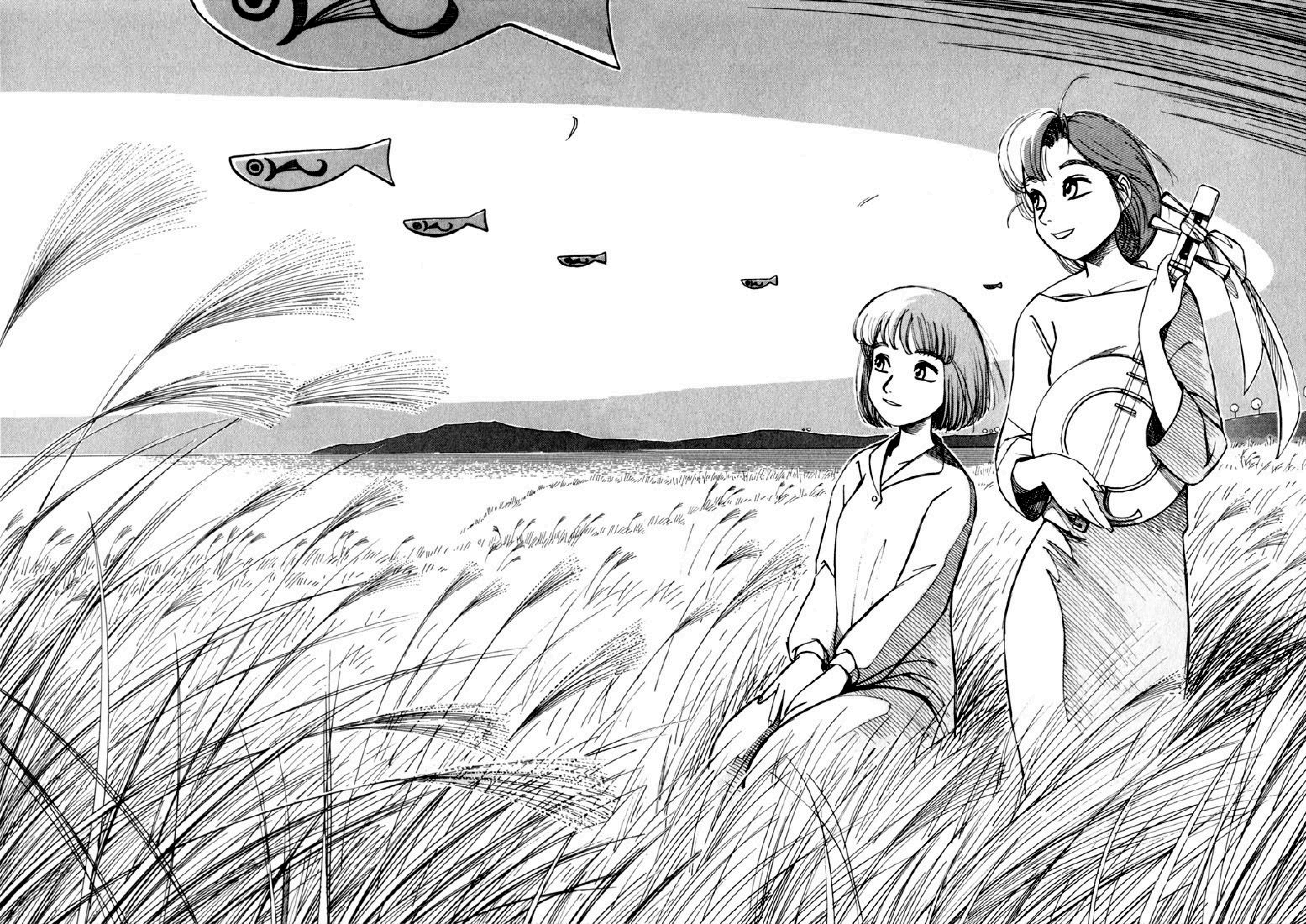

UNITL JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
I NEVER PLAYED IN FRONT OF OTHERS.
... LATELY...

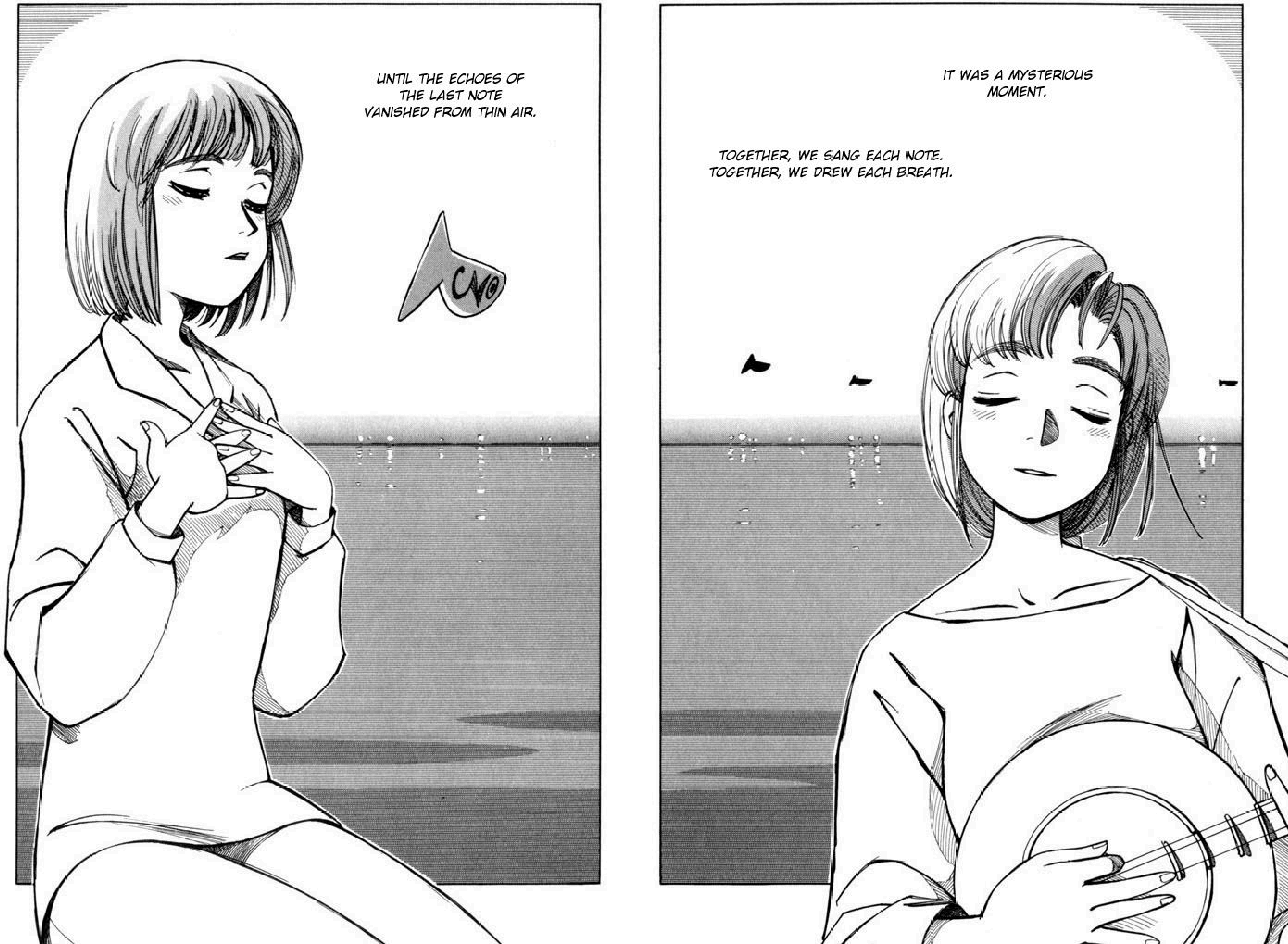

I HAD NEVER SEEN THAT EXPRESSION BEFORE.

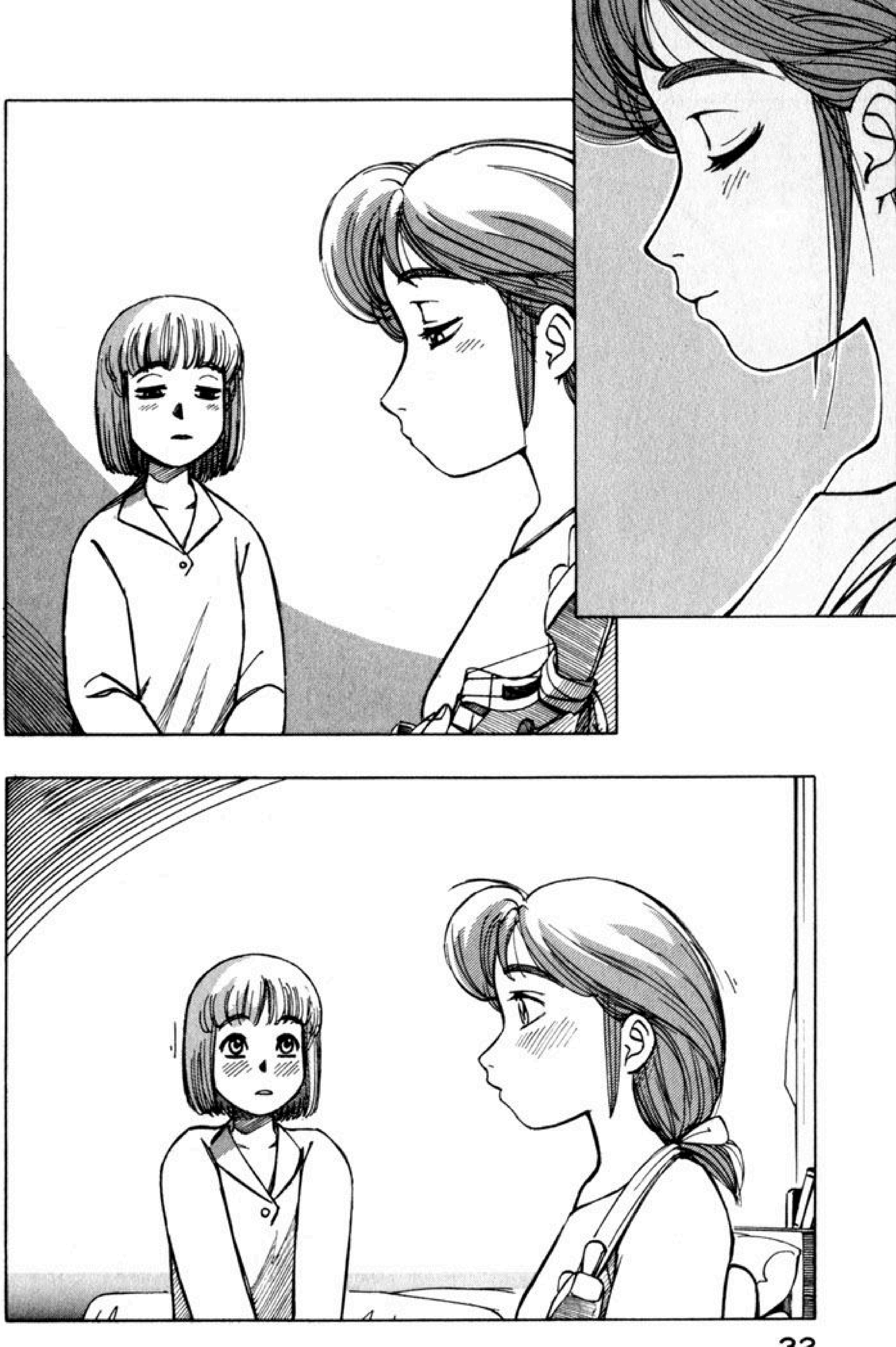

LIKE AN OLD CHILDREN'S MELODY, BUT WITH A BIT OF A BRAZILLIAN AIR...
THAT'S HOW IT BEGAN.

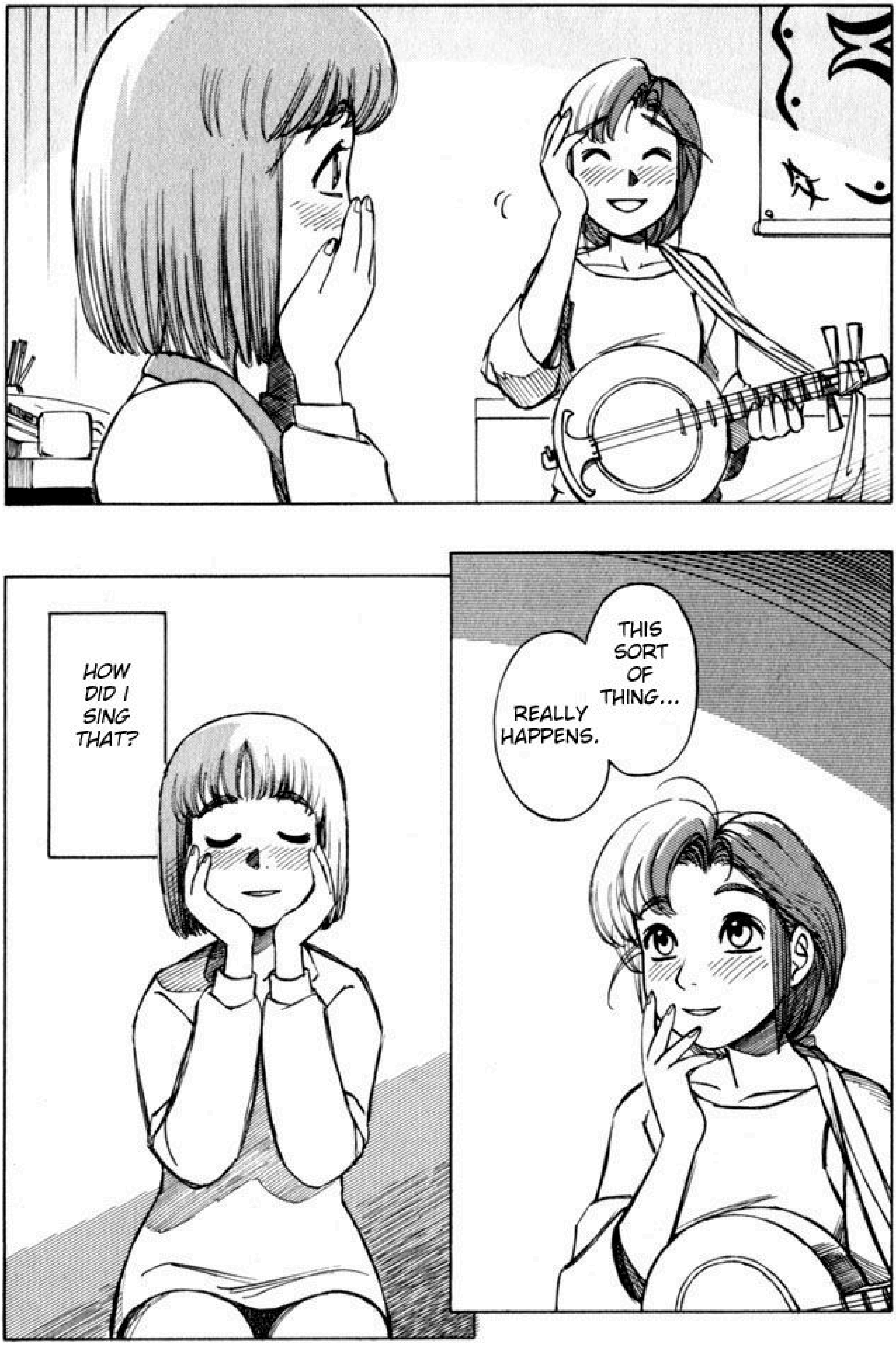

IT FELT AS IF I HAD FALLEN INTO THE MUSIC.
I FOUND MYSELF HUMMING AS IF I KNEW THE SONG MYSELF.

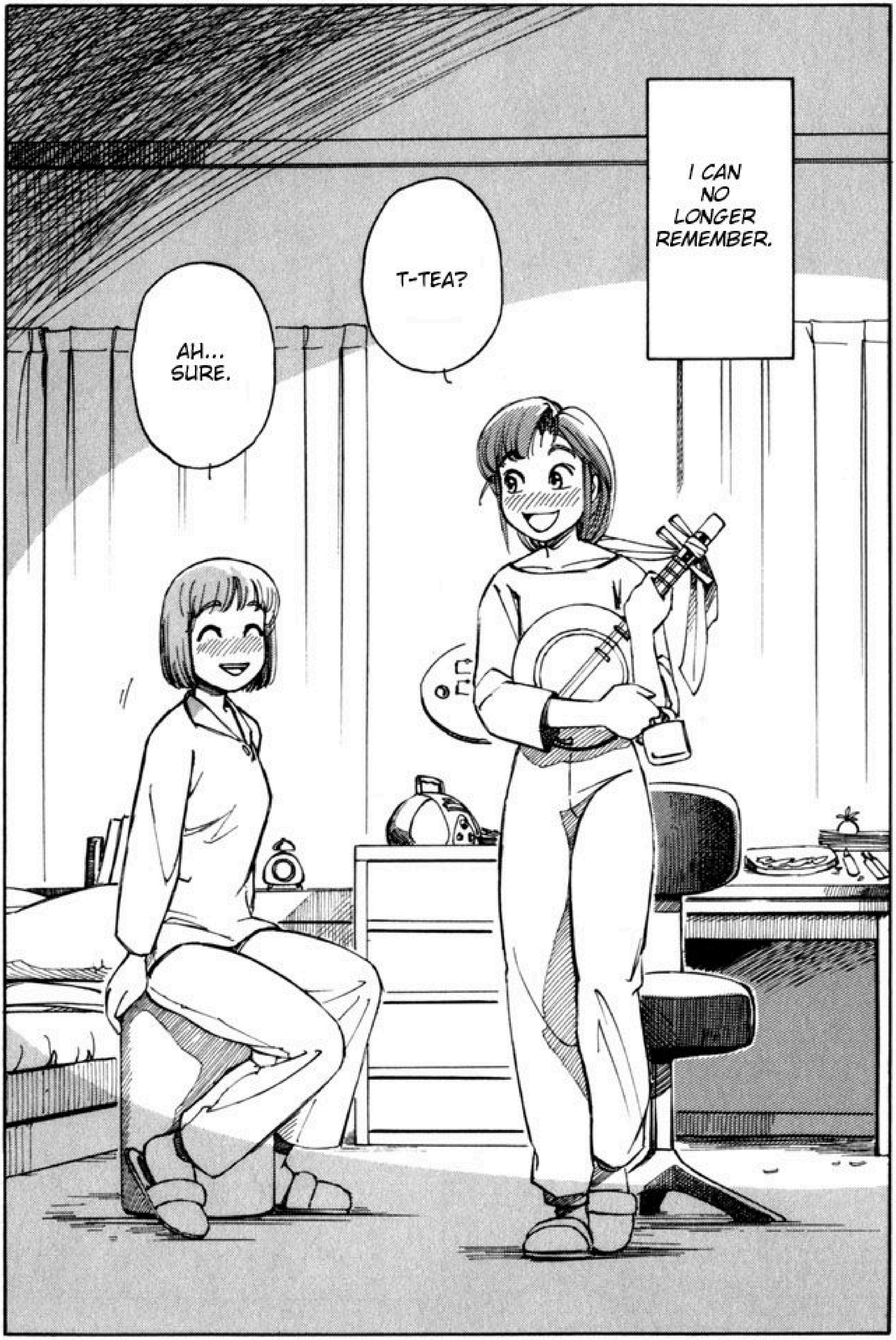

AS THE SONG CHANGED,
ALPHA ALSO HUMMED.
OUR TWO VOICES... THE GEKKIN...
THE THREE DISSOLVED TOGETHER, AND I WAS UNABLE TO HEAR ANYTHING ELSE.



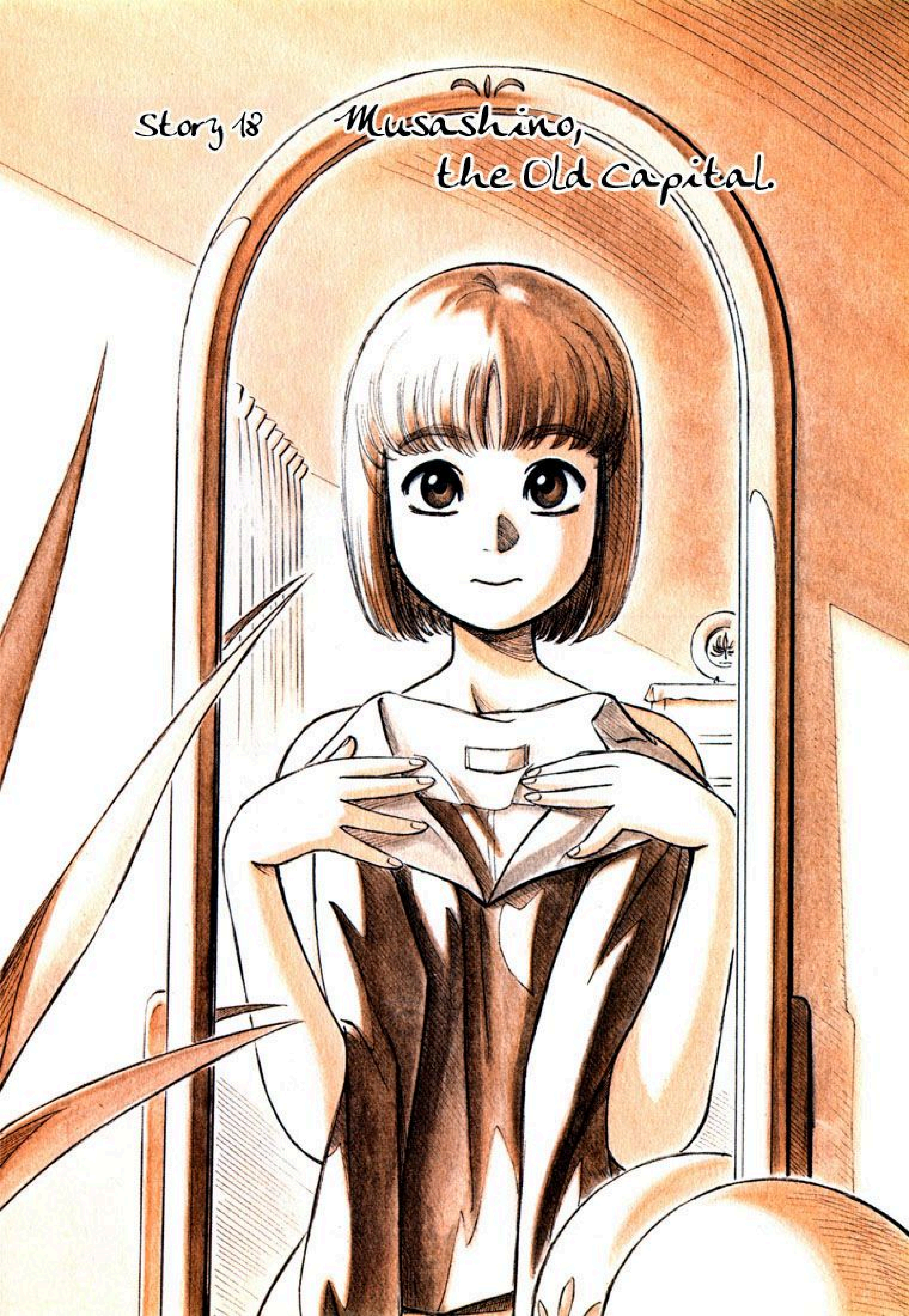

IT WAS A MYSTERIOUS MOMENT.
TOGETHER, WE SANG EACH NOTE. TOGETHER, WE DREW EACH BREATH.
UNTIL THE ECHOES OF THE LAST NOTE VANISHED FROM THIN AIR.

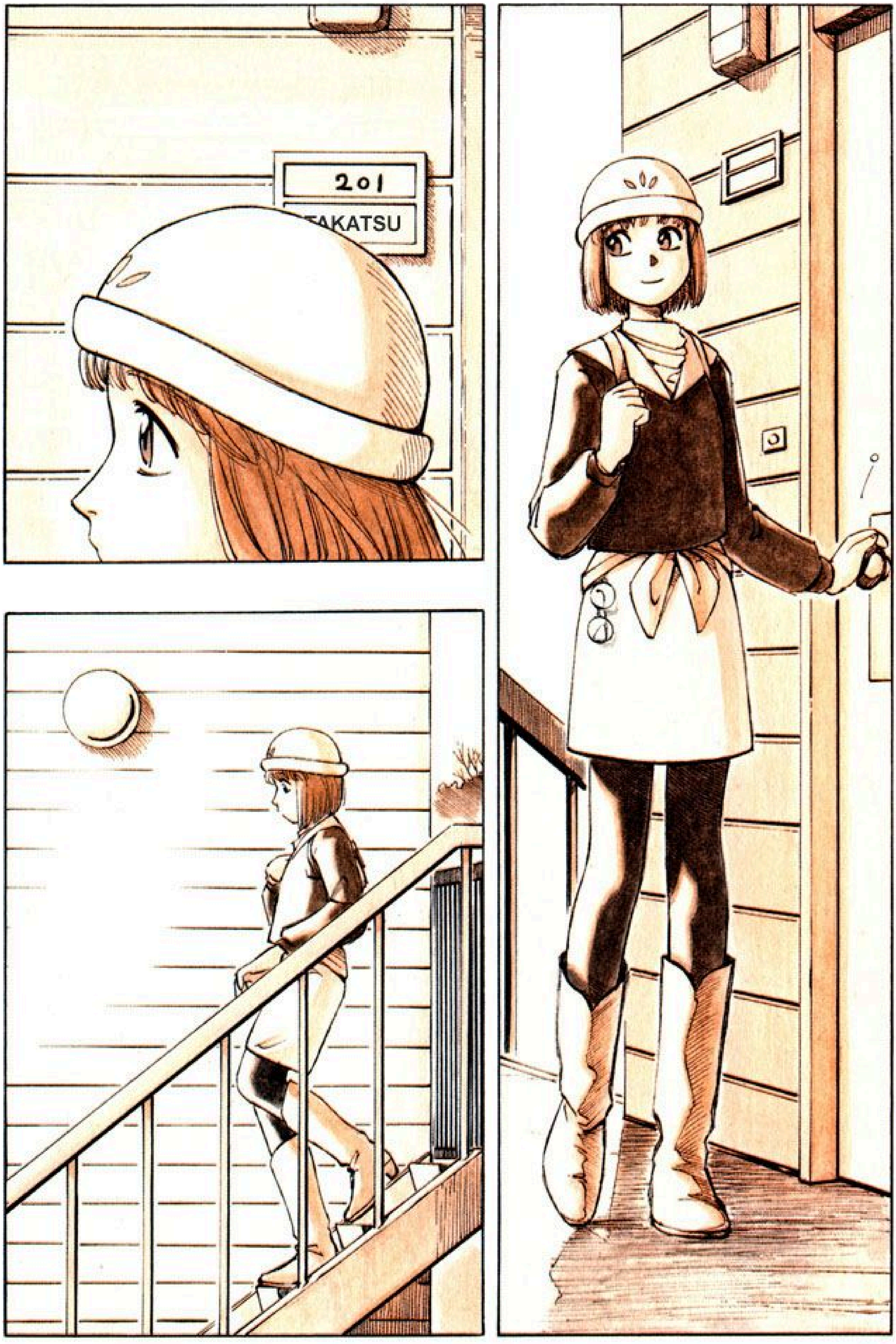



HOW DID I SING THAT?
THIS SORT OF THING...
REALLY HAPPENS.

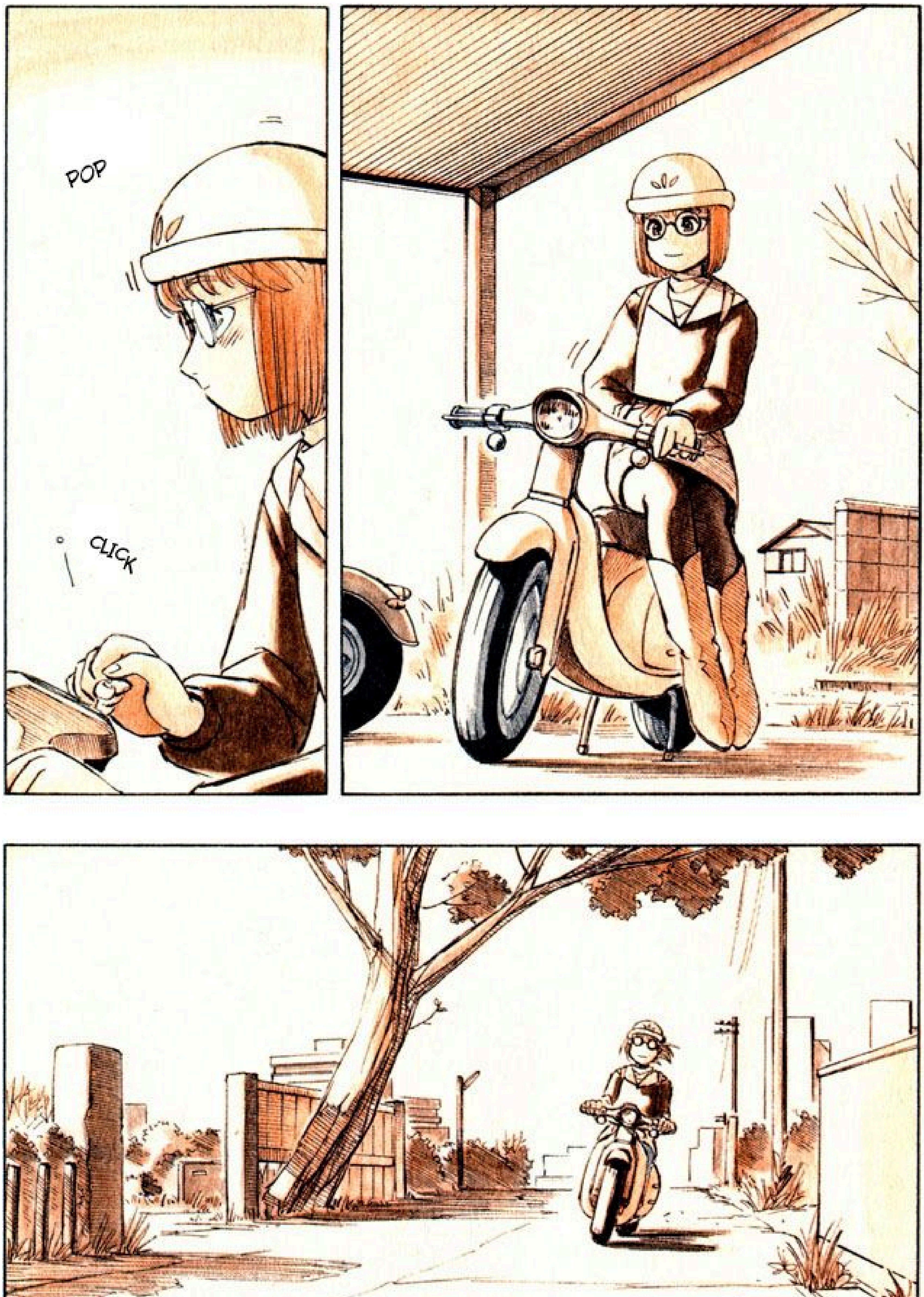


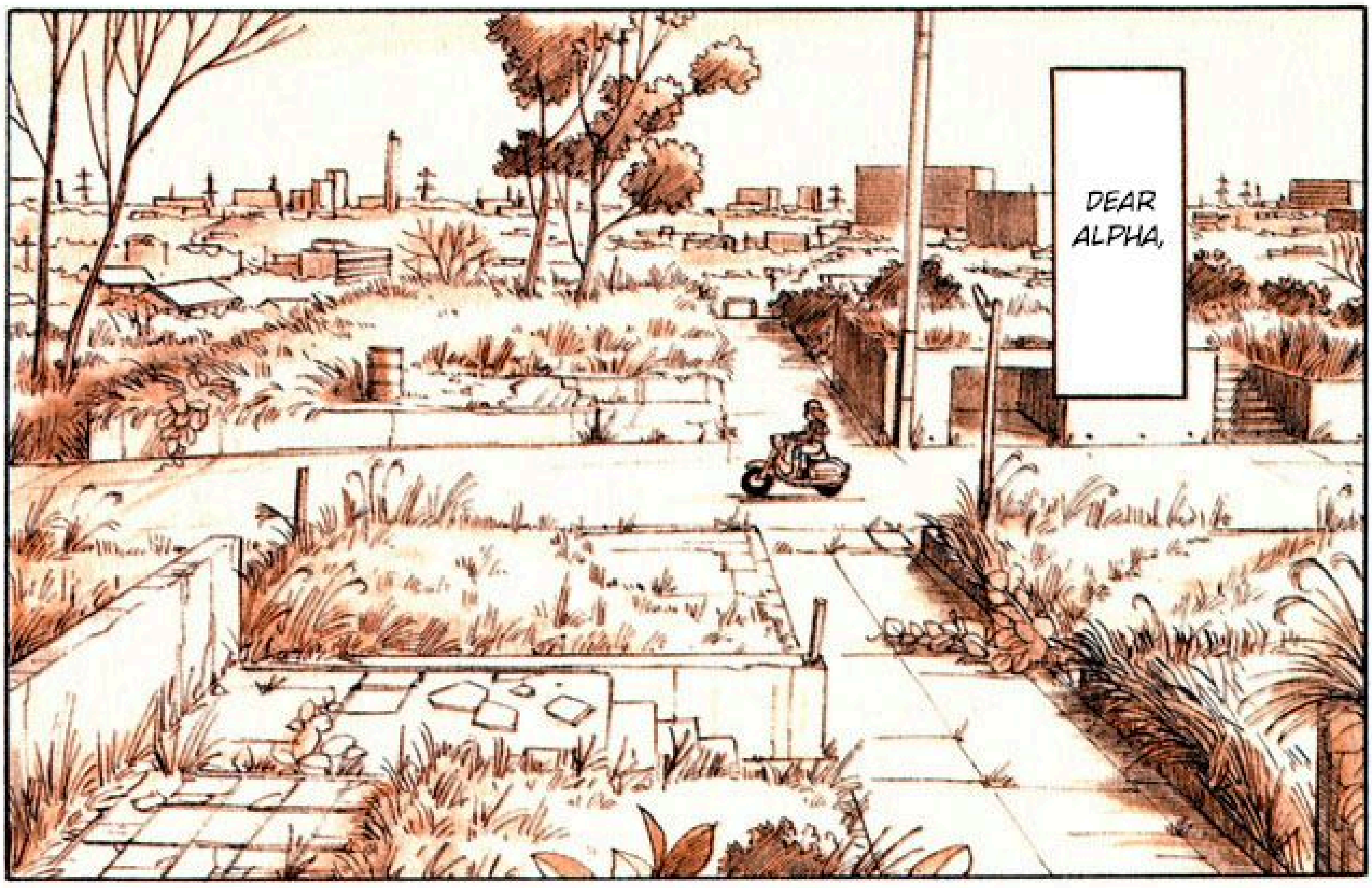

Story 17 - End


Story 18
Musashino, the Old Capital.


201
TAKATSU

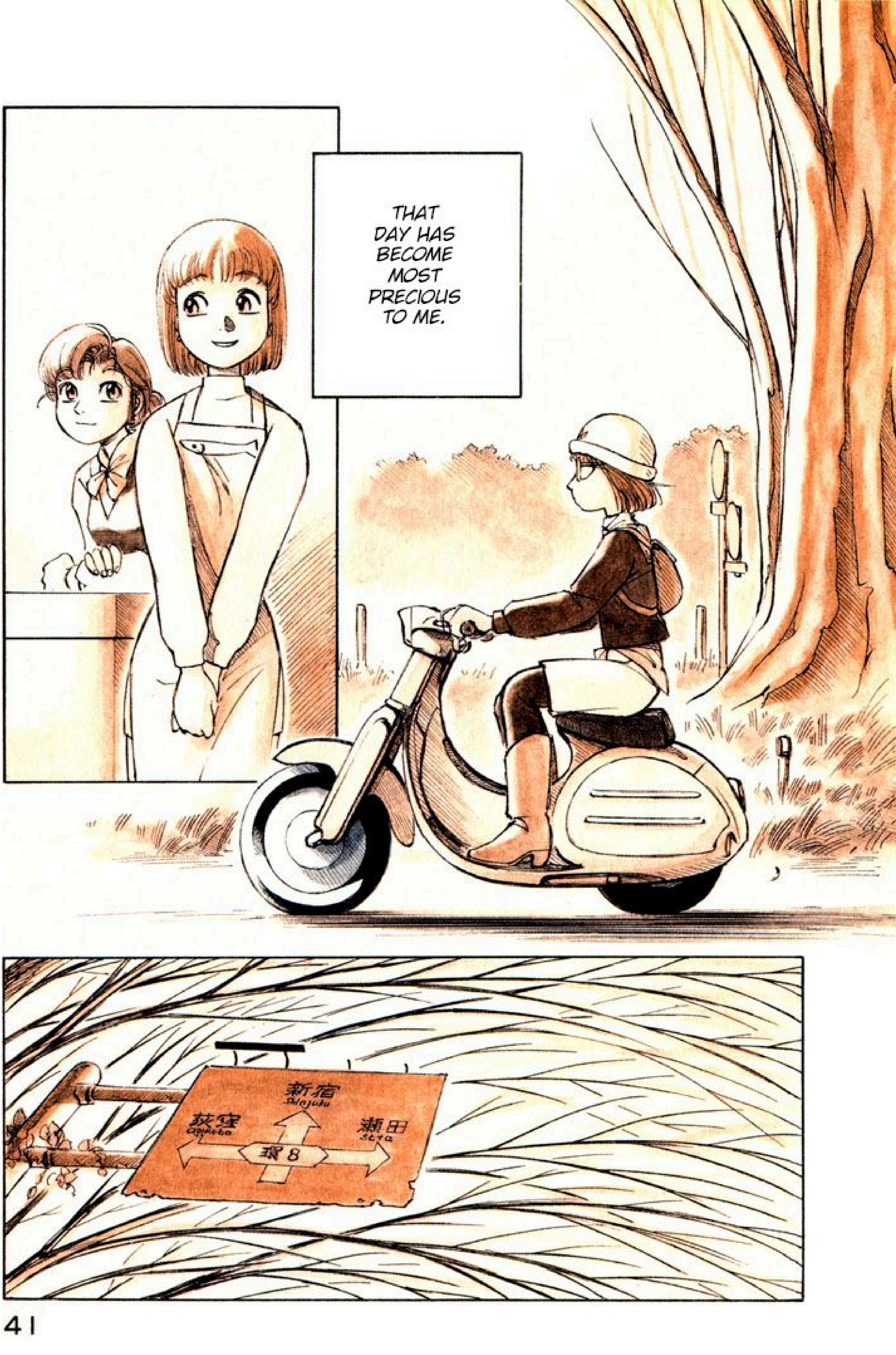

GOOD MORNING!
Huh?
KOKO-CHAN, AREN'T YOU LATE?
I'M ON THE LATE SHIFT TODAY.
AH!
CAN I PAY THE RENT LATER THIS MONTH?
ALL RIGHT.

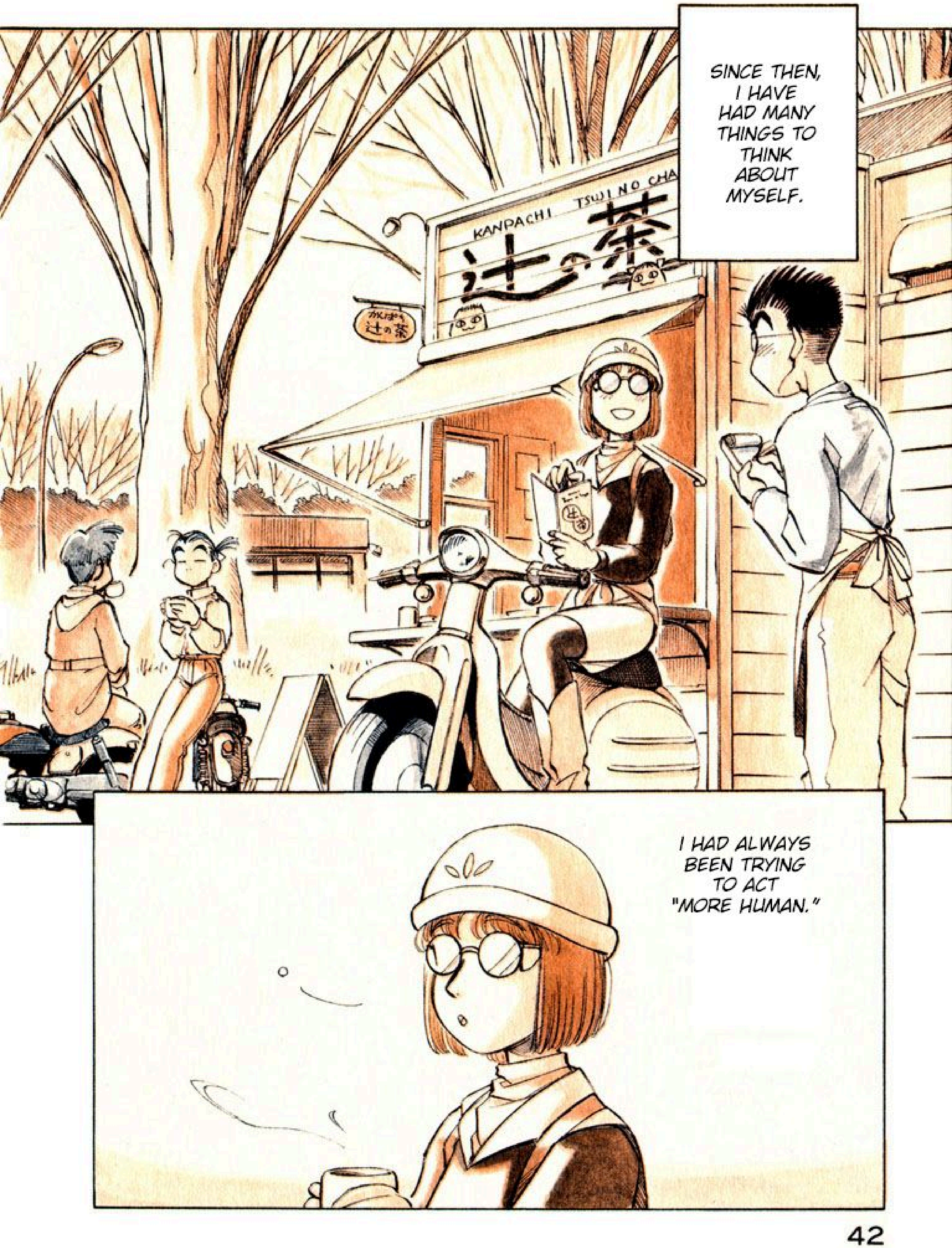

POP
CLICK


DEAR ALPHA,

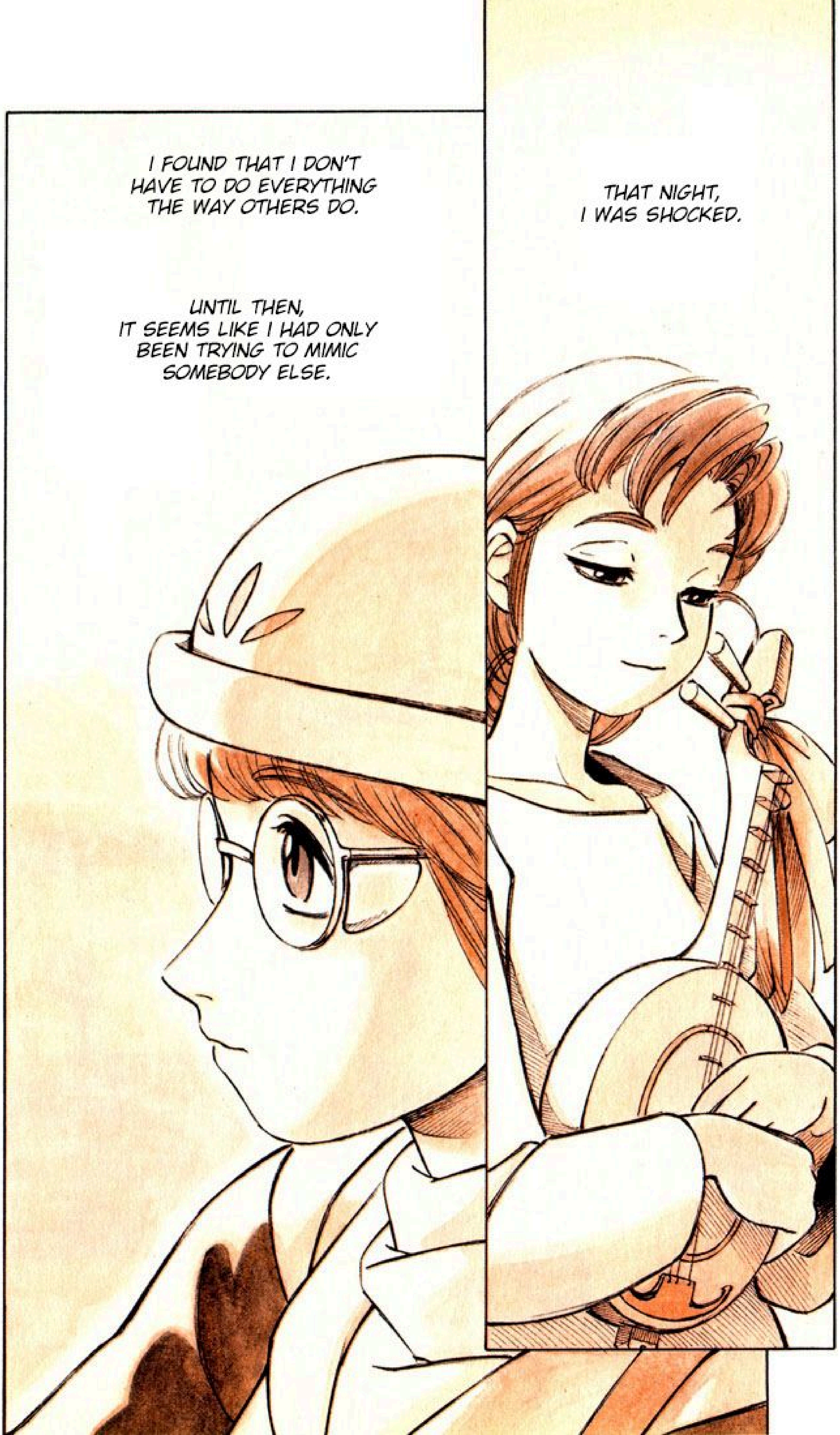

I'M SORRY FOR DROPPING IN ON YOU SO SUDDENLY.

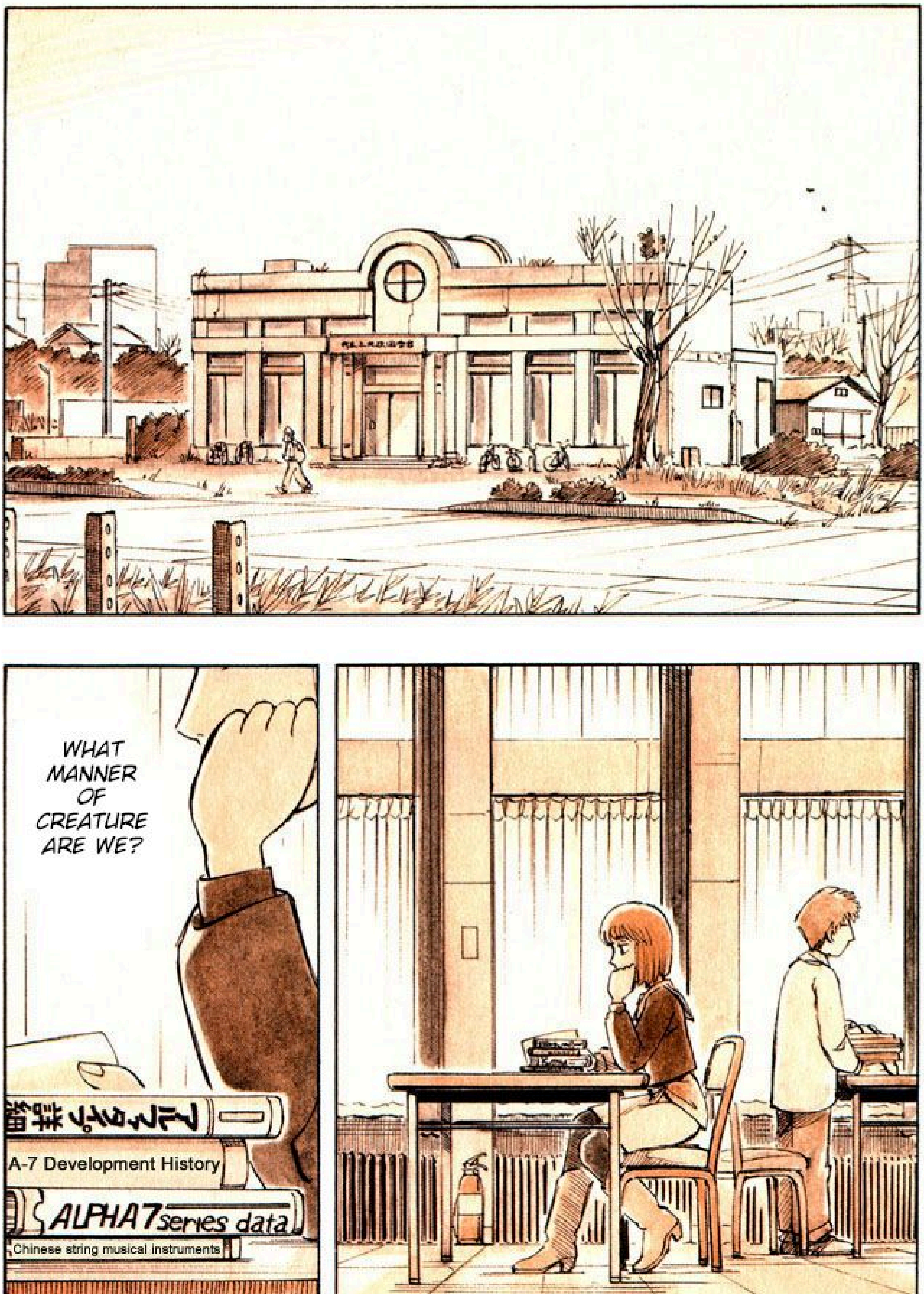



THAT DAY HAS BECOME MOST PRECIOUS TO ME.
新宿
荻窪
瀬田
環8


SINCE THEN, I HAVE HAD MANY THINGS TO THINK ABOUT MYSELF.
KANPACHI
I HAD ALWAYS BEEN TRYING TO ACT "MORE HUMAN."


WHEN I FIRST MET YOU...
I SAW THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BEHAVE "NOT ROBOT-LIKE."
THAT ALLOWED ME TO LOOSEN UP A LOT.
I SOUGHT A MODEL IN YOU FOR A CALMER, MORE PEACEFUL WAY OF LIFE.
UNTIL I MET YOU AGAIN.

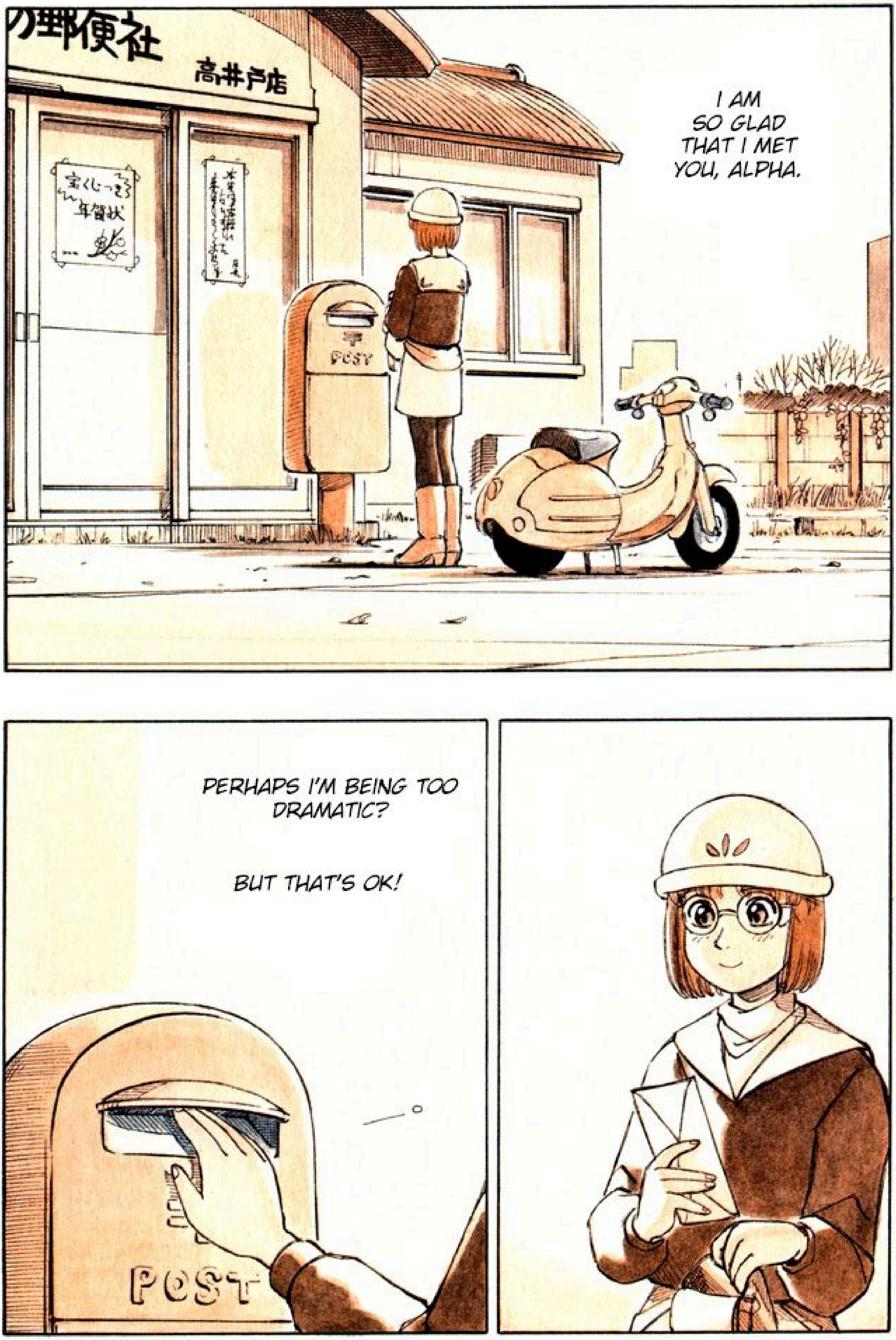

I FOUND THAT I DON'T HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING THE WAY OTHERS DO.
UNTIL THEN, IT SEEMS LIKE I HAD ONLY BEEN TRYING TO MIMIC SOMEBODY ELSE.
THAT NIGHT, I WAS SHOCKED.


WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ARE WE?
A-7 Development History
ALPHA 7 series data
Chinese string musical instruments


SINCE THEN,
I HAVE BECOME INTERESTED
IN THIS QUESTION.

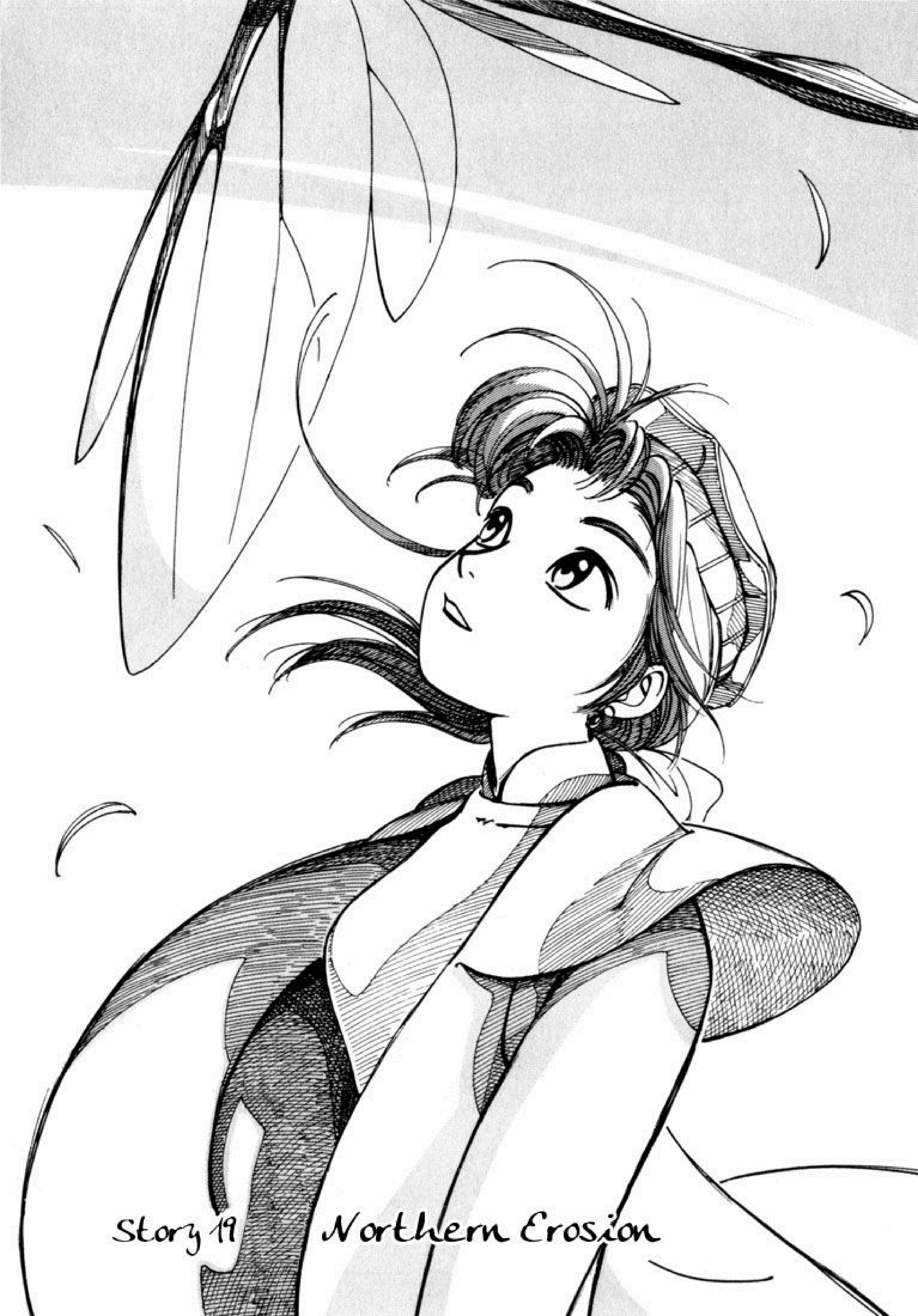

NOW I CAN
BELIEVE THAT
BEING A ROBOT IS
ONLY ONE PART
OF MY
PERSONALITY.
BUT IT
ISN'T
HERE.


I THINK I HAVE RECENTLY FOUND A MORE RELAXED WAY OF LIFE.
IT IS TO STOP TRYING TO BE SO COMFORTABLE.

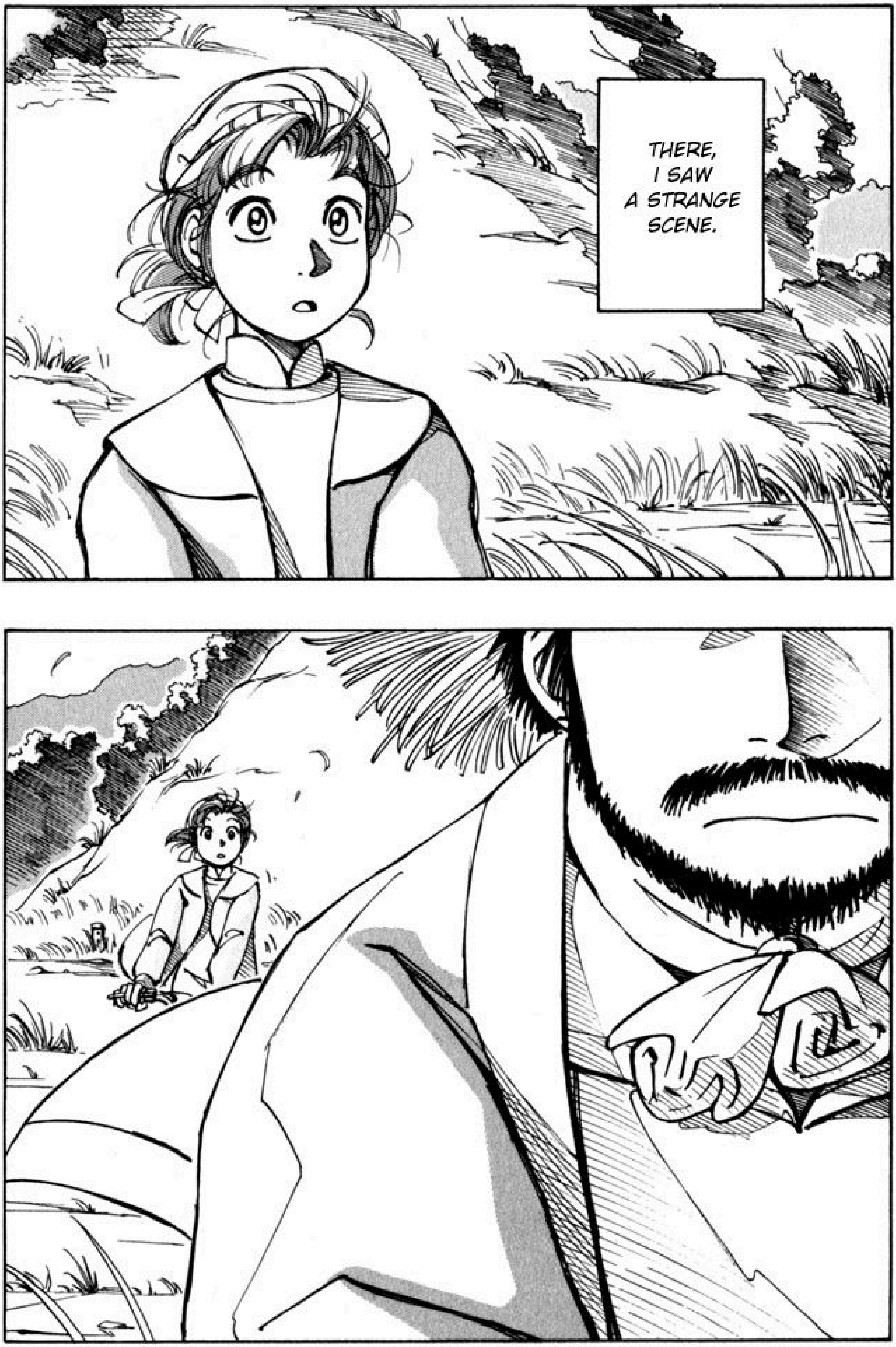

の郵便社
高井戸店
POST
I AM SO GLAD THAT I MET YOU, ALPHA.
PERHAPS I'M BEING TOO DRAMATIC?
BUT THAT'S OK!
POST


I'LL COME TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
DEFINITELY!

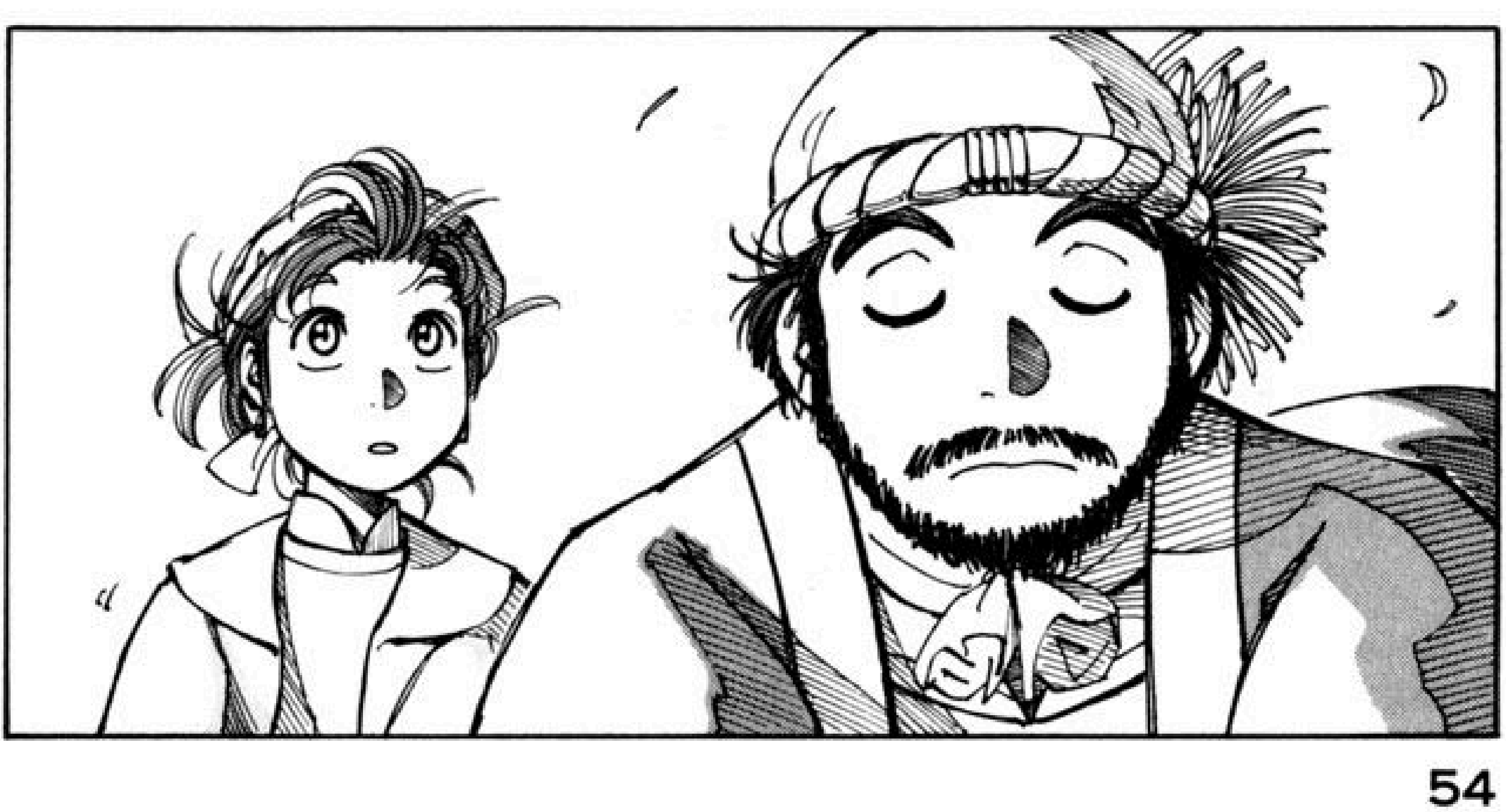

UNTIL I SEE YOU AGAIN,
TAKATSU KOKONE
WHAT DEEP THOUGHTS.
JUST LIKE HER THOUGH.
Story 18 - End


Story 19 Northern Erosion

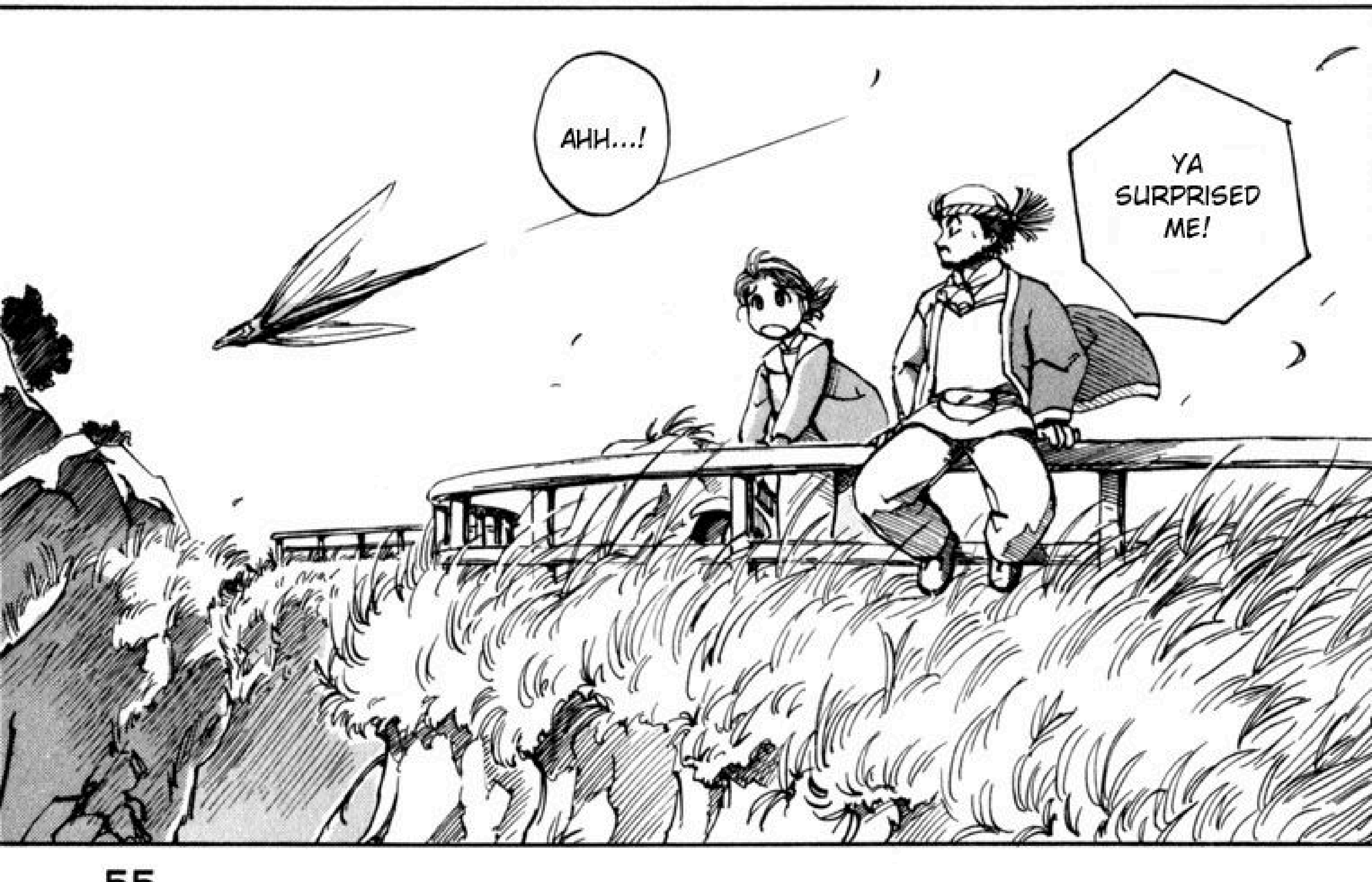

THE GREAT NORTH RUIN.
WHERE THE WIND OF THE SEA GUSTS.


THERE, I SAW A STRANGE SCENE.






AMAZING!
WAH!
びくっ

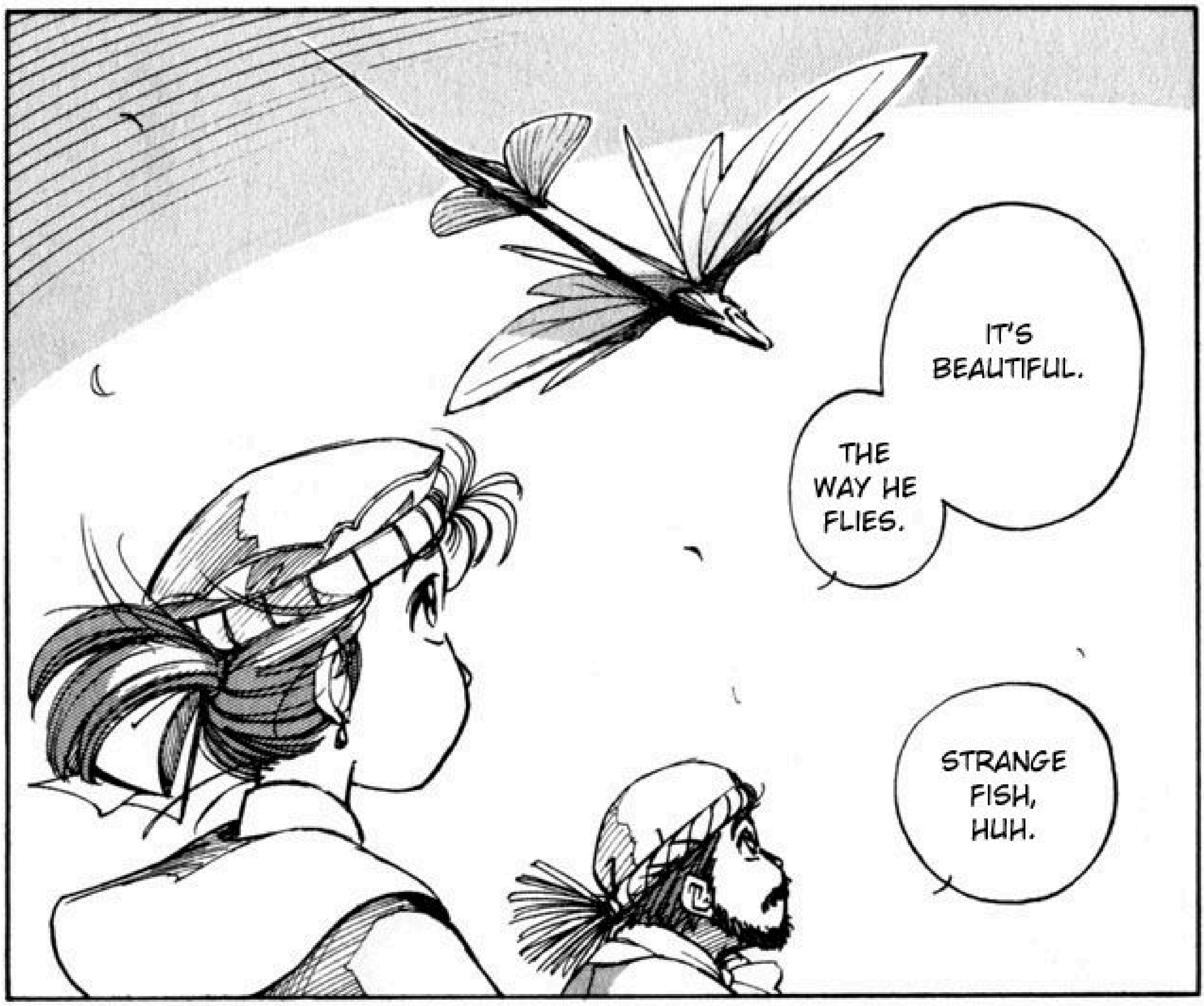

YA SURPRISED ME!
AHH...!




AWWW...
IT'S GONE...
OH, JUST WAIT A SEC.
EH?
AH!


I- IT'S AMAZING!
THERE.
A-ARE YOU FRIENDS?
FRIENDS?
HMM... I GUESS SO.


Oh...

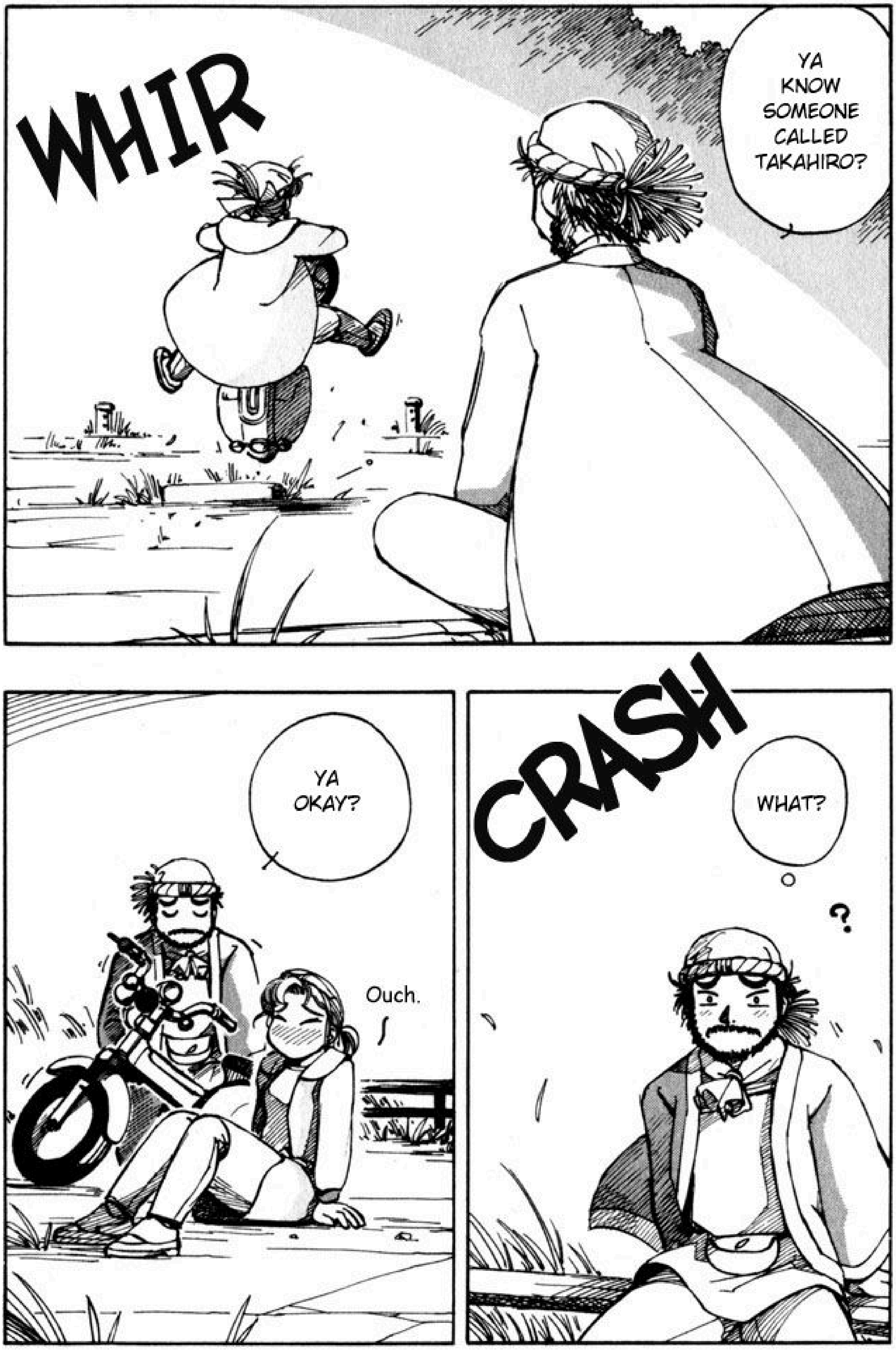

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
THE WAY HE FLIES.
STRANGE FISH, HUH.

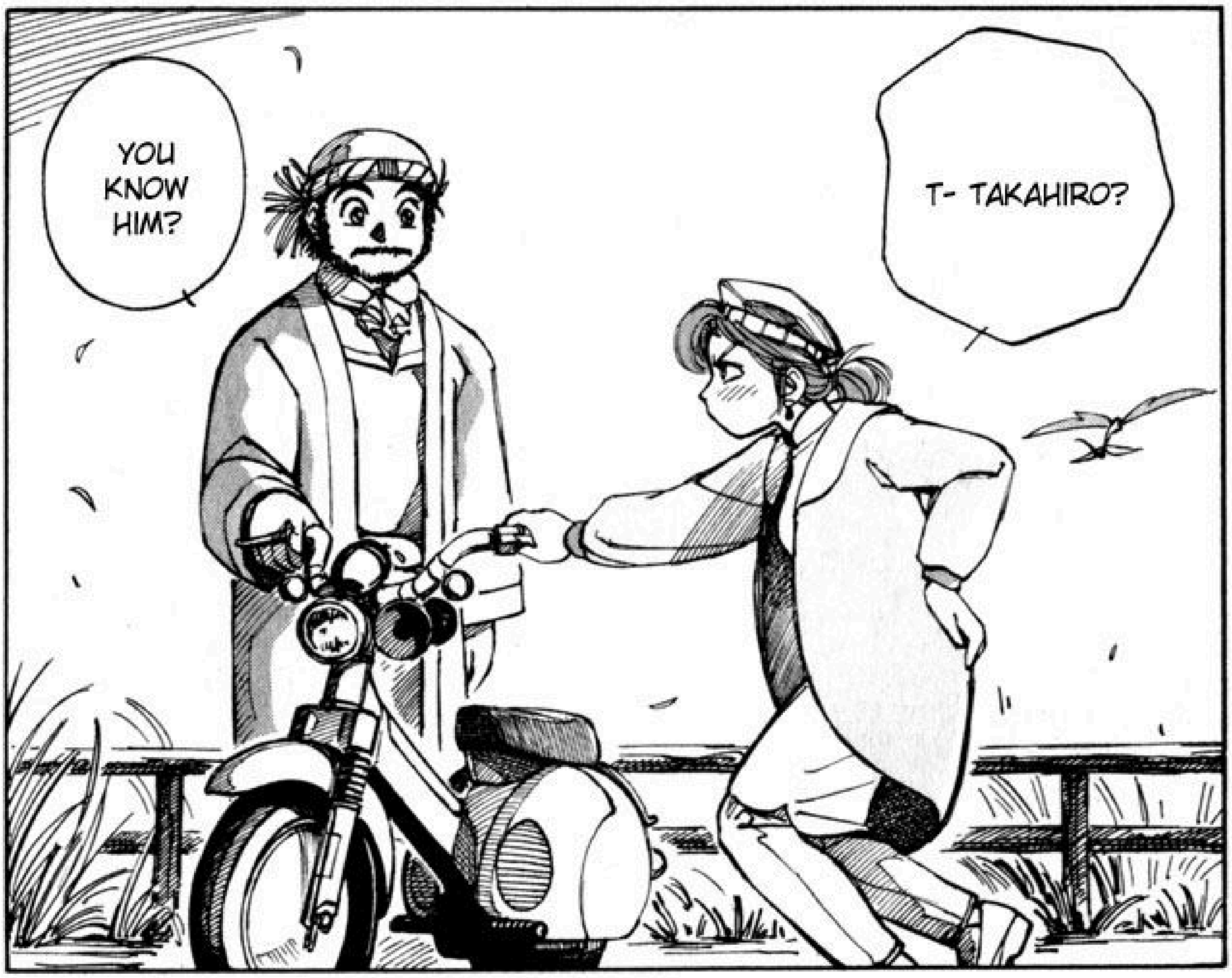

SKIN'S KINDA WAXY.
SEEMS TA LIKE IT OUT HERE.
IT NEEDS GOGGLES THOUGH.


UM...
ARE YOU FROM AROUND HERE?
YEAH. DON'T REALLY COME THIS WAY MUCH THESE DAYS, THOUGH.
I'M JUST HERE TODAY ON A BIT OF A PERSONAL EVENT....
WHAT?
SORRY.
IT'S JUST...
Hehehe.
YOU REMIND ME OF THIS OLD MAN I KNOW.
THE WAY YOU SPEAK.
WHAAT?


THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
NO PROBLEM.
OH, I RUN A COFFEE SHOP ON "CAPE WEST" TO THE SOUTH OF HERE.
PLEASE, STOP BY IF YOU'RE EVER IN THE AREA.


CAPE WEST.
I USED TO GO THERE MANY TIMES.
THERE'S A SHOP THERE?
IT'S FAMOUS AROUND THERE!
Or so I'm told...
HUH.
WELL, I'LL STOP BY IF I'M EVER DOWN THAT WAY.
PLEASE DO.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SAY...


WHIR
YA KNOW SOMEONE CALLED TAKAHIRO?
YA OKAY?
Ouch.
CRASH
WHAT?
?


T- TAKAHIRO?
YOU KNOW HIM?


DO I KNOW HIM!? HE'S MY...
REALLY? TELL HIM I SAID HELLO THE NEXT TIME YA SEE HIM.


TELL HIM IT'S FROM AYASE.
NAH... FROM THE GUY WHO SAW THE MISAGO.
M- MISAGO?
YEAH.
WHAT A LOUD GIRL.
Story 19 - End


Story 20 Phoenix (HOH)


NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, TAKAHIRO MENTIONED YOU.
"A GUY WITH A FLYING FISH." HE SAID.
AND SHE MUST BE THE GIRL TAKAHIRO WAS TALKING ABOUT.


YOU MUST COME VISIT MY PLACE.
I CAN HAVE TAKAHIRO COME OVER. IT'S A BIT FAR, THOUGH.
.......
IT'S ABOUT 20 KILOMETERS.
AH! IF YOU DON'T MIND RIDING WITH ME, I CAN GIVE YOU A LIFT.
......
I'LL PASS FOR TODAY.
NO PLACE TO STAY THAT WAY, AND IT'S EARLY FOR SLEEPIN' OUTDOORS..


YOU COULD STAY AT TAKAHIRO'S PLACE.
HMM... AND IF NOT, THERE'S ALWAYS MY PLACE.
YER TRUSTING, AREN'T YA?
NAH, I DON'T WANT TA JUST DROP IN UNINVITED.
EH?
"EH" IS NOT THE WORD...
I'M HEADIN' TO KAMAKURA.
WHAT? REALLY?


NOT GOIN'?
I WAS.
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
OK...
I TOLD YA ABOUT A PERSONAL EVENT BEFORE, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TODAY.


YA KNOW 'BOUT THE AIRPLANE?
HM?
AIRPLANE...
YOU MEAN...
THOSE FLYING THINGS THAT GO "VMMMMM" OR "BRRRRR."
THEY FLY BY OCCASION-ALLY.
"VMMMM" OR "BRRRR"...
A REAL UNUSUAL ONE'S GONNA COME FROM THAT WAY.
WATCH.
BE HERE IN 'BOUT TEN MINUTES.


IT'S HERE.
Ah!
THE BIRDS?
HIGHER! WHERE THE SKY TURNS BLUE.






IT'S TOO HIGH.
... THERE'S NO SOUND.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
I HEARD THIS ONE WAS COMIN' THIS WAY TODAY.
........

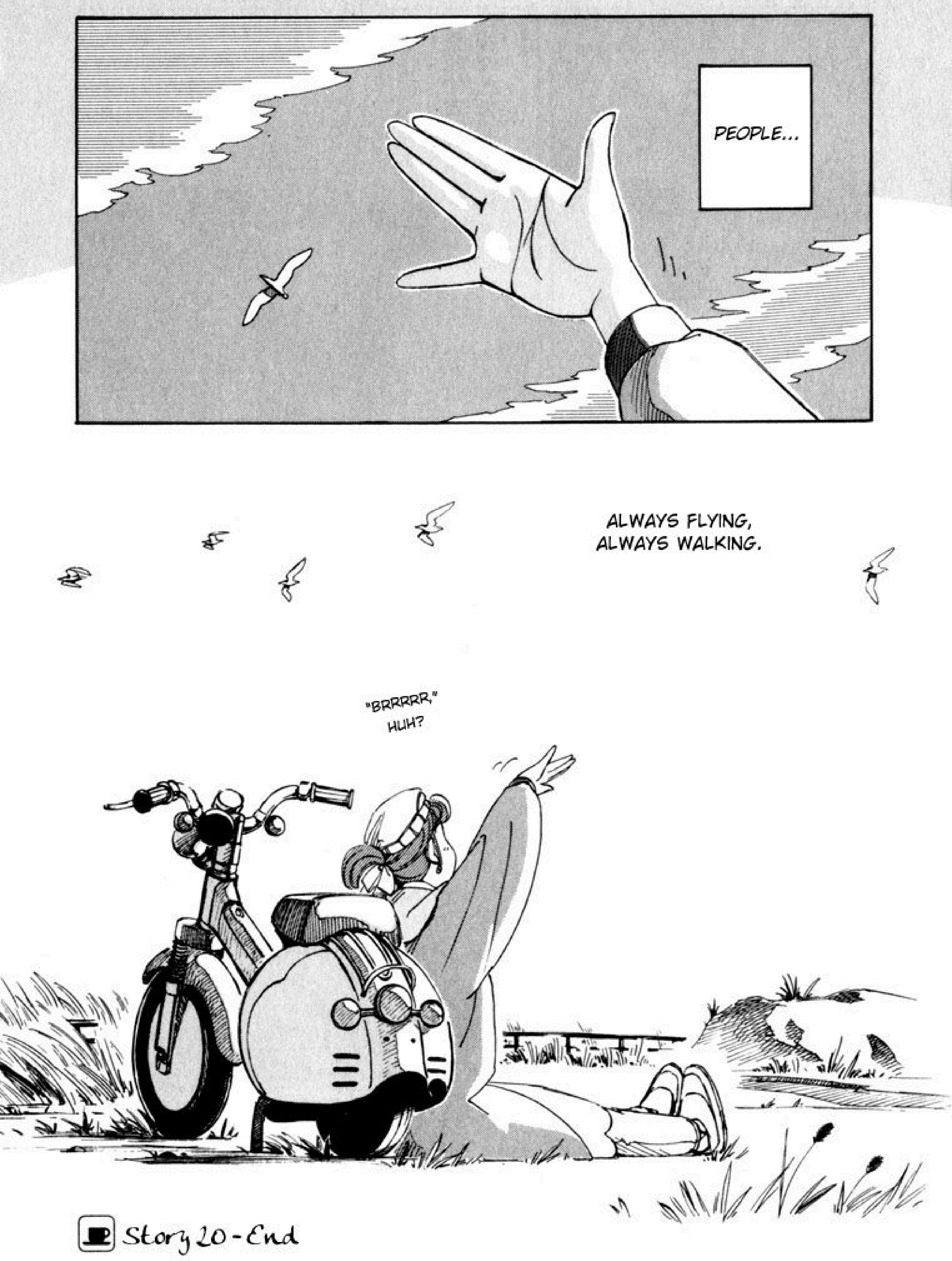

IT'S CALLED THE "TAAPON."
TAAPON?
FUNNY NAME...
I WONDER IF THERE ARE PEOPLE ON IT...
THERE ARE.
SEEMS THEY CAN'T COME DOWN ANYMORE.
THEY'RE ALWAYS FLYING.

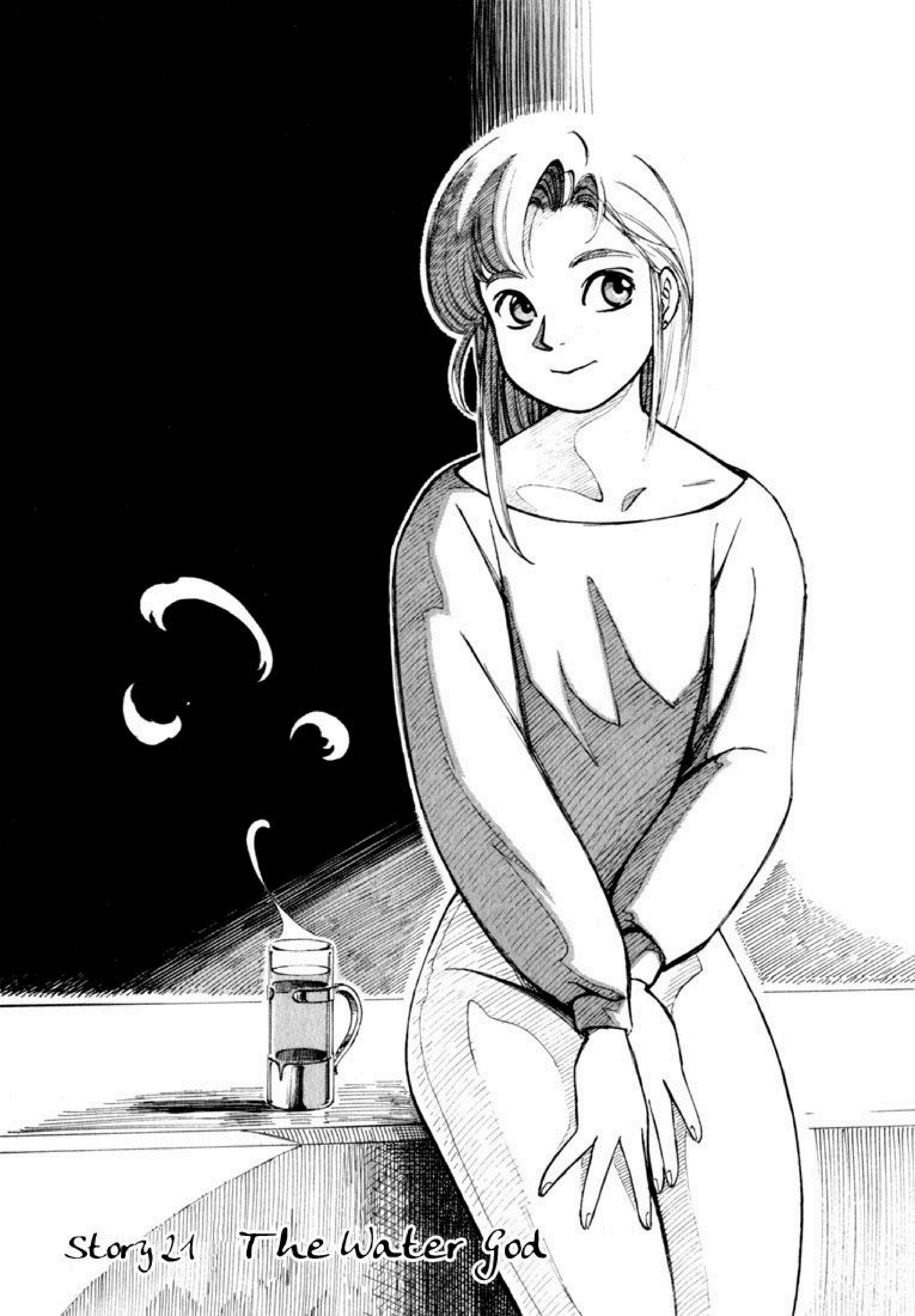





UM... THANK YOU.
HUH. FOR WHAT?
EVERYTHING.
......
SHE'S...


NEXT TIME, COME SEE ME AT MY SHOP.
..... SEE YA.


PEOPLE...
ALWAYS FLYING,
ALWAYS WALKING.
"BRRRRR,"
HUH?
Story 20 - End


Story 21 The Water God


I TOLD TAKAHIRO ABOUT MEETING AYASE, BUT...


OH, AND..
HE SAID TO SAY HI TO YOU, TAKAHIRO!
......
HMM...
REALLY...
......
.......
HUH?


IWATSUKI FERRY
渡し
GOIN' TO IWATSUKI, SON?
IT'S CLOSEST BY BOAT.
NAH.
I'M HEADED 'ROUND TA OOMIYA.
WANT TA GO PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE WATERGOD.


IT'S DOWN THAT SEA ROAD, THOUGH.
... THANKS.
I DOUBT YOU'LL GET TO SEE THE GOD.
REALLY, NOW.
A LONG TIME AGO, I WAS TOLD THAT I SHOULD GO PRAY TO THE "WATERGOD" OF MINUMA BAY IN THE COUNTRY OF SAITAMA.
I ALSO HAVE A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION.

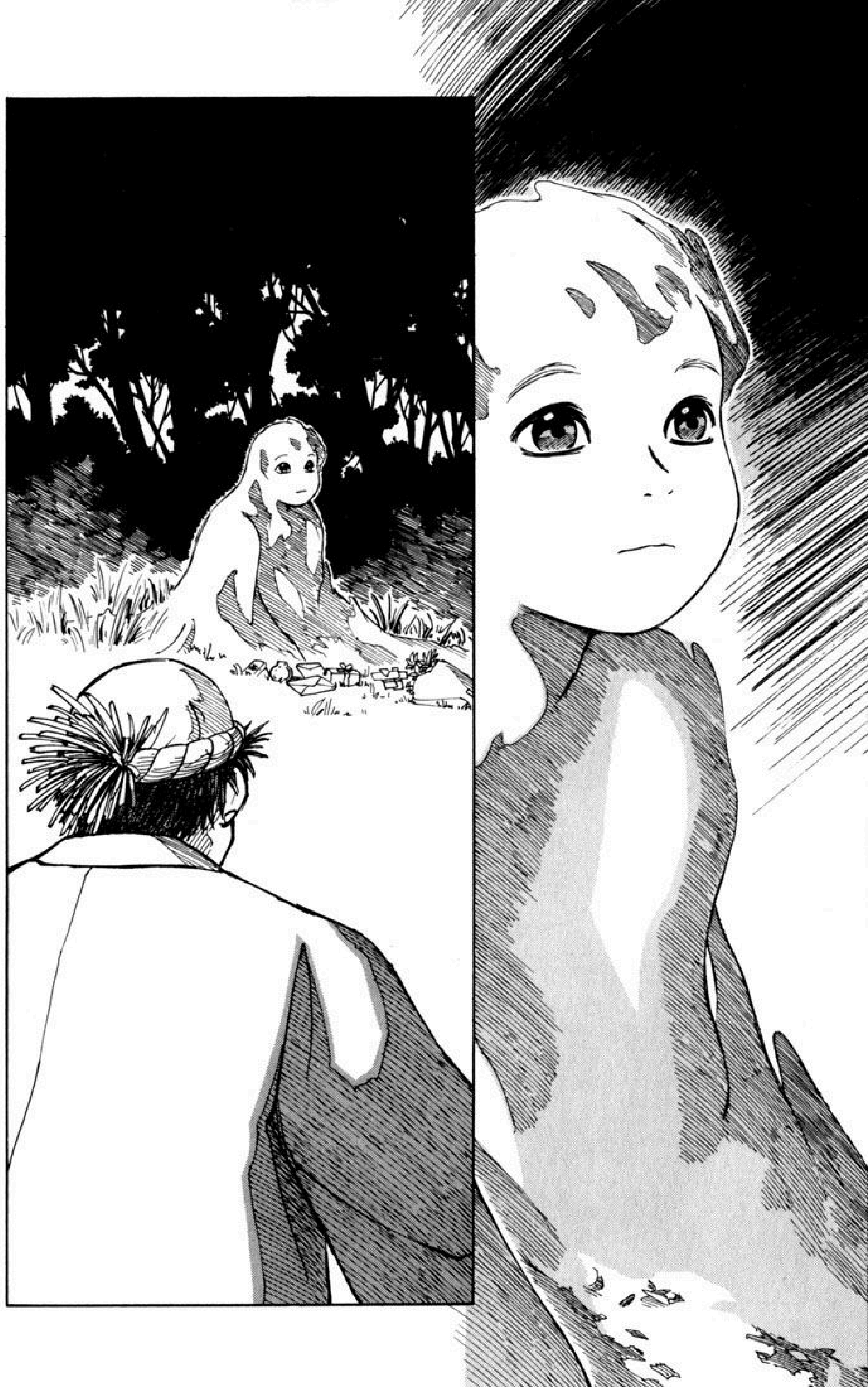

EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE WATERGOD.
AH, HELLO.
参拝受付



I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU SEE THE GOD.
PLEASE, JUST PRAY HERE.
FIGURES?
I HAVE A LETTER.
HMM...
AHHH...
YOU'RE A FRIEND OF HATSU-SENO SENSEI'S?
RIGHT THIS WAY...
AH...
T-THANK YOU.


IT ISN'T FAR.
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ISN'T ANY KIND OF SHRINE.
YES. THE SENSEI SAID THAT IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO BUILD ONE.
I SEE...


OVER THERE.
OH...
IT'S WHITE.
MARBLE? OR MAYBE QUARTZ?
... FEEL FREE TO APPROACH.
BUT PLEASE, DON'T TOUCH.
OK...
PARDON ME.




T...
THE WATERGOD...



... IT LOOKS ALMOST ALIVE.
SHE IS ALIVE.
SHE HAS BRAIN-WAVES.
WHAT?
SHE LOOKED HUMAN...
BUT HER BODY WAS COVERED IN SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE WHITE FLEECE.
THE FEATURES OF HER FACE SHONE WHITELY, AS IF TRACED IN FINE LINES ON VELVET.

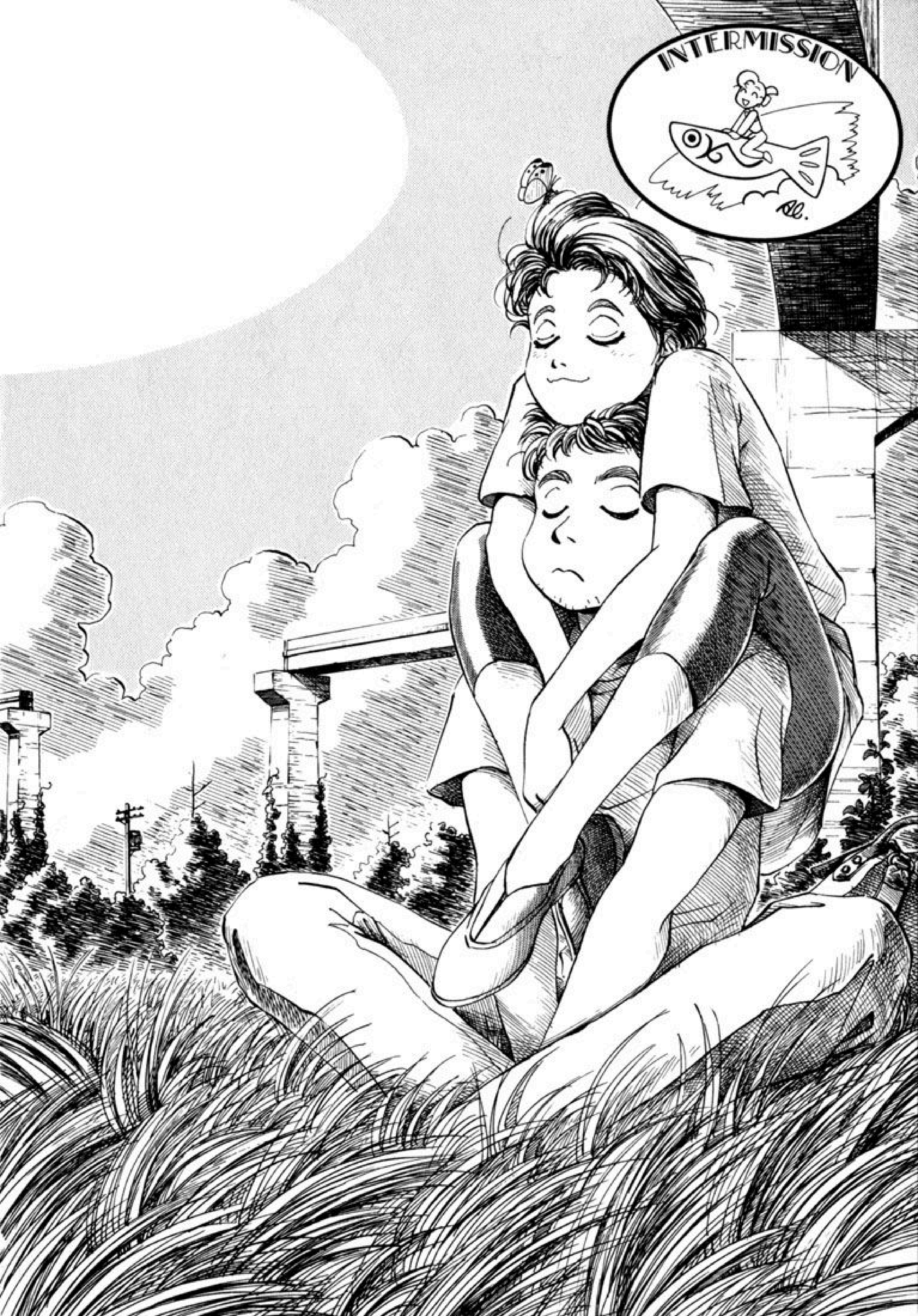

WE THOUGHT SHE MUST BE A HUMAN CHILD.
BUT SHE HASN'T MOVED AN INCH SINCE WE FOUND HER.
WE FEEL THAT IT'S BEST NOT TO TOUCH HER, SO THE LOCALS HERE WATCH OVER HER.
"THE GOD OF THE BAY."


ALSO...
TIME NEVER TOUCHES HER.
........


THANK YOU.
NOT AT ALL.
参拝受付
WELL... I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO COME.
MM... I'M GLAD OF THAT.
HMMM...

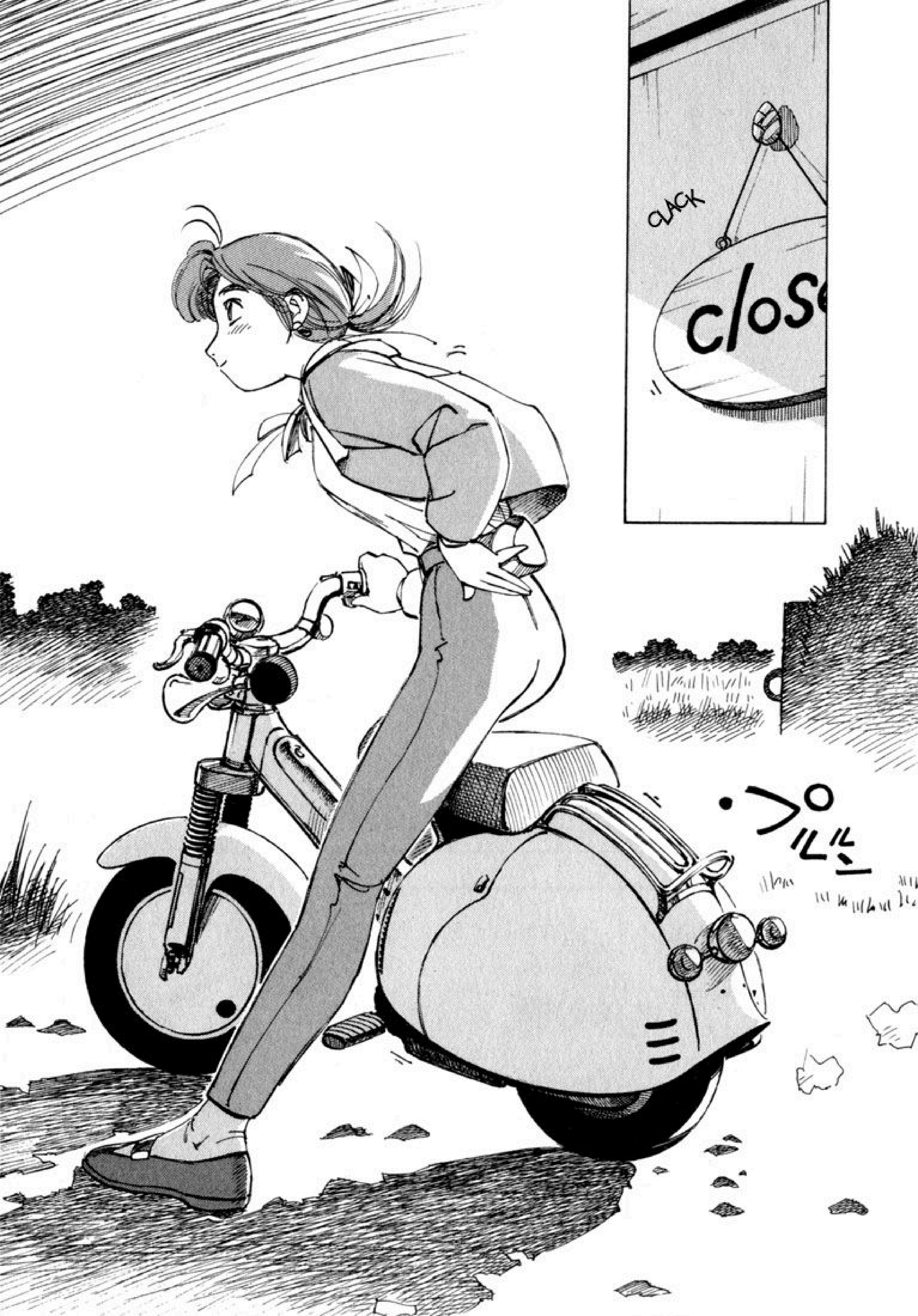

COME ON, CHEER UP.
YOU WANTED TO BE THE ONE TO INTRODUCE AYASE AND I, DIDN'T YOU?
HEY, DON'T PUSH YOUR BREASTS INTO MY BACK SO MUCH.
GRIND
GRIND
OW, OW, OW!


INTERMISSION

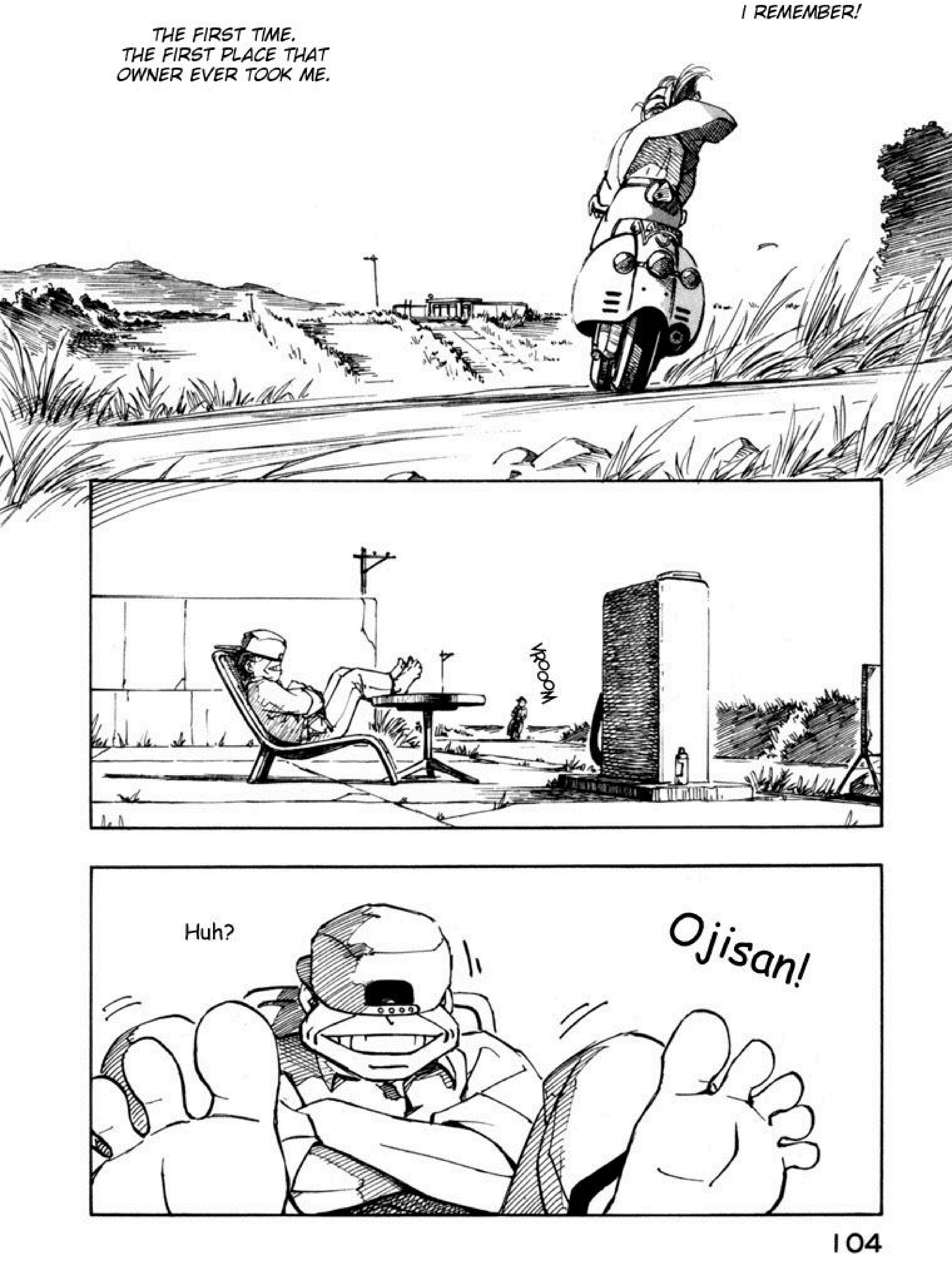

INTERMISSION


Story 22 Yokosuka Cruise


WHILE STROKING THE CAMERA'S SMOOTH SURFACE,
AFTERNOON HAS CREPT UPON ME.
Hmm...
........



CLACK
close
プルン


I REMEMBER!
THE FIRST TIME.
THE FIRST PLACE THAT
OWNER EVER TOOK ME.
VROOOM
Ojisan!
Huh?



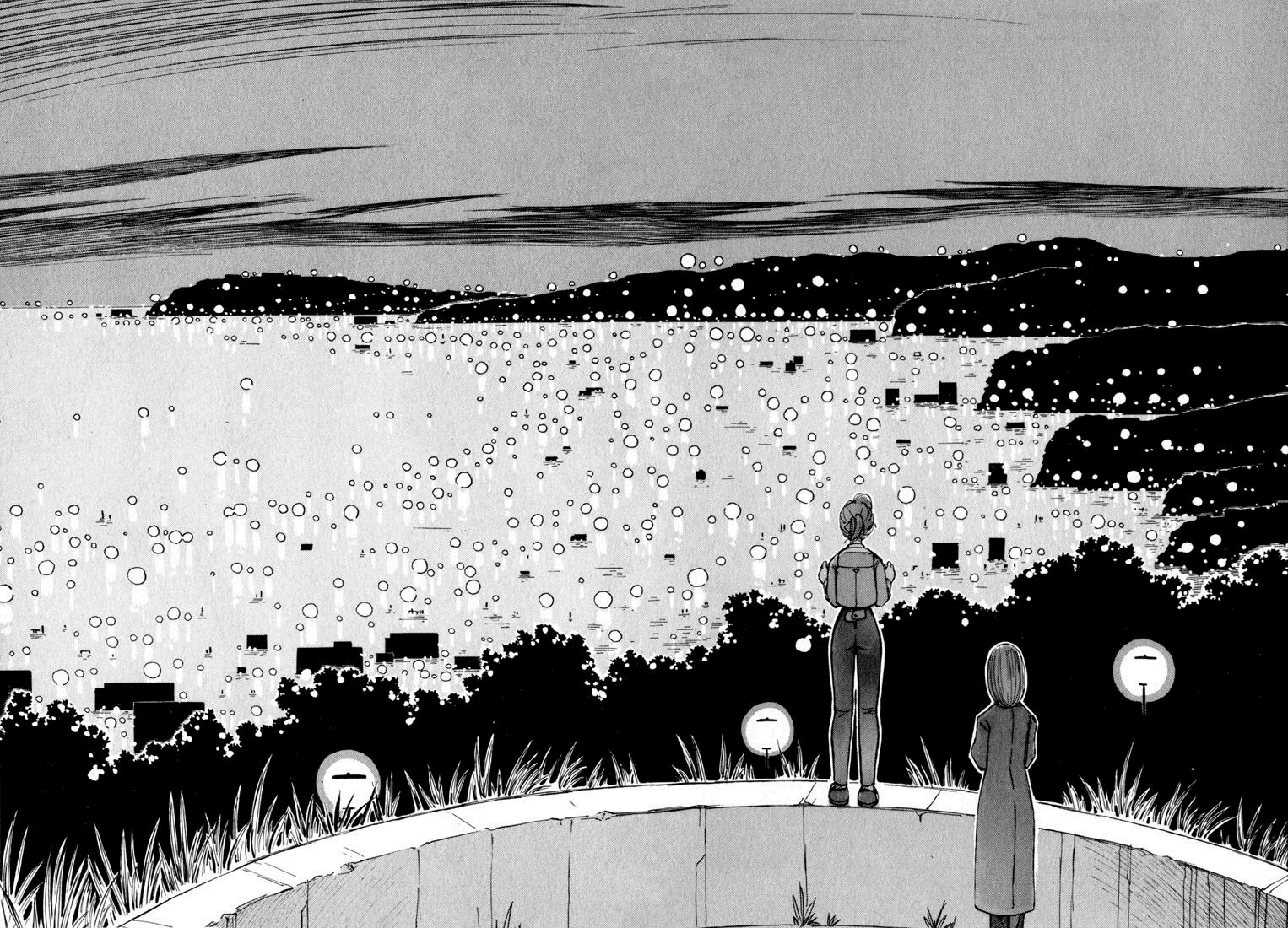
YOO-HOO!
OH.
VROOOOM
WHERE YA GOIN'?
A PERSONAL EVENT.
WHAT'S THAT?


WE MUST HAVE BEEN GOING TO THE NORTHERN TOWN...
NOW, ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS A CERTAIN NOSTALGIA AND VAGUE IMAGES.
I WONDER IF I CAN MAKE IT WHILE IT'S STILL LIGHT OUT.


HERE! IT MUST BE.
IT FEELS DIFFERENT THOUGH.
THIS PLACE.
MM...
ALPHA?
EH?


SENSEI!
AH. IT IS YOU.
HMM... DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?
AH HA HA.
NOT REALLY. I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE ONCE BEFORE.
WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?
I HAD SOME BUSINESS IN THE NORTHERN TOWN.
I SEE...
COME HERE OFTEN?
ONCE IN A WHILE.


THE SUN SANK TOWARDS THE HORIZON.
AN UNQUENCHABLE TENSION CAME UPON ME.
THERE WAS A STRONG TIGHTNESS WITHIN MY CHEST.
WHAT IS IT?
EH HEH HEH...
I SEEM TO FEEL MOVED.
SNIFF
AH...
I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
SOON THE BLUE OF THE SKY DARKENED, AND EVENING CAME UPON US. HAD I BEEN ALONE, I WOULD SURELY HAVE BEGUN TO THINK OF DEPARTING.
SLOWLY, IT BEGAN.

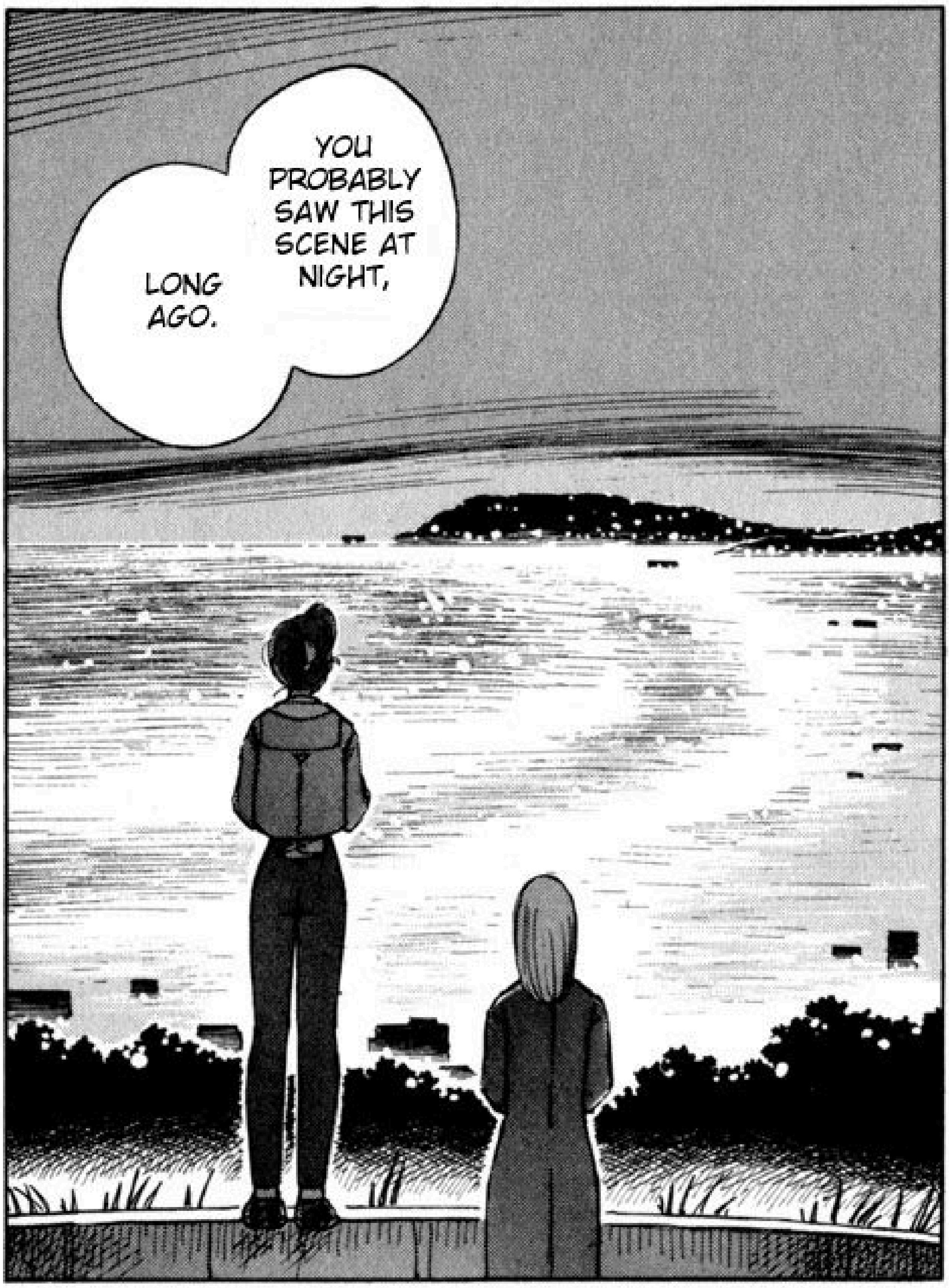


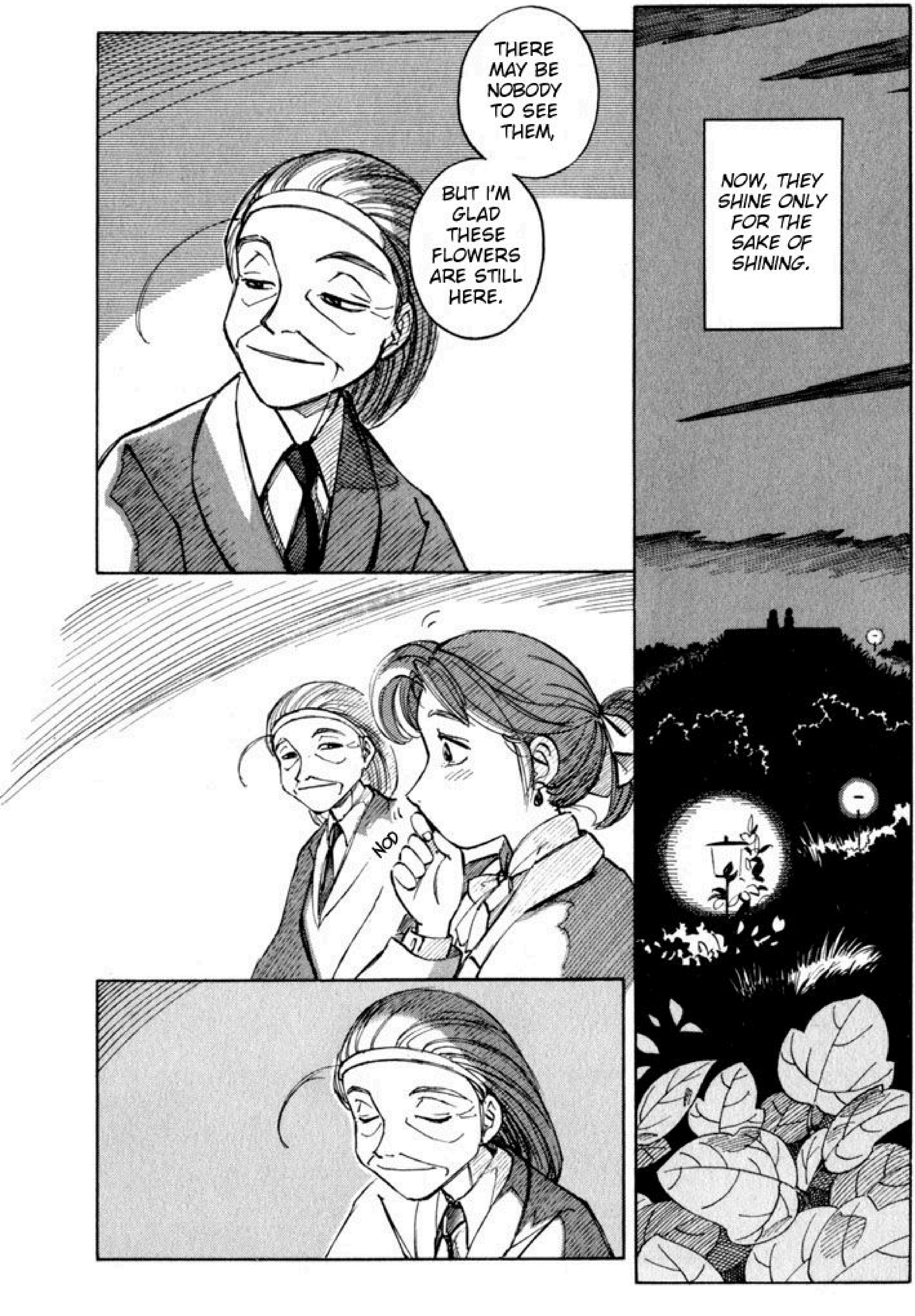

S-SO MANY...




ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOW NOTHING BUT FOREST, THE LIGHTS STILL SHONE ABOVE THE WAVES.

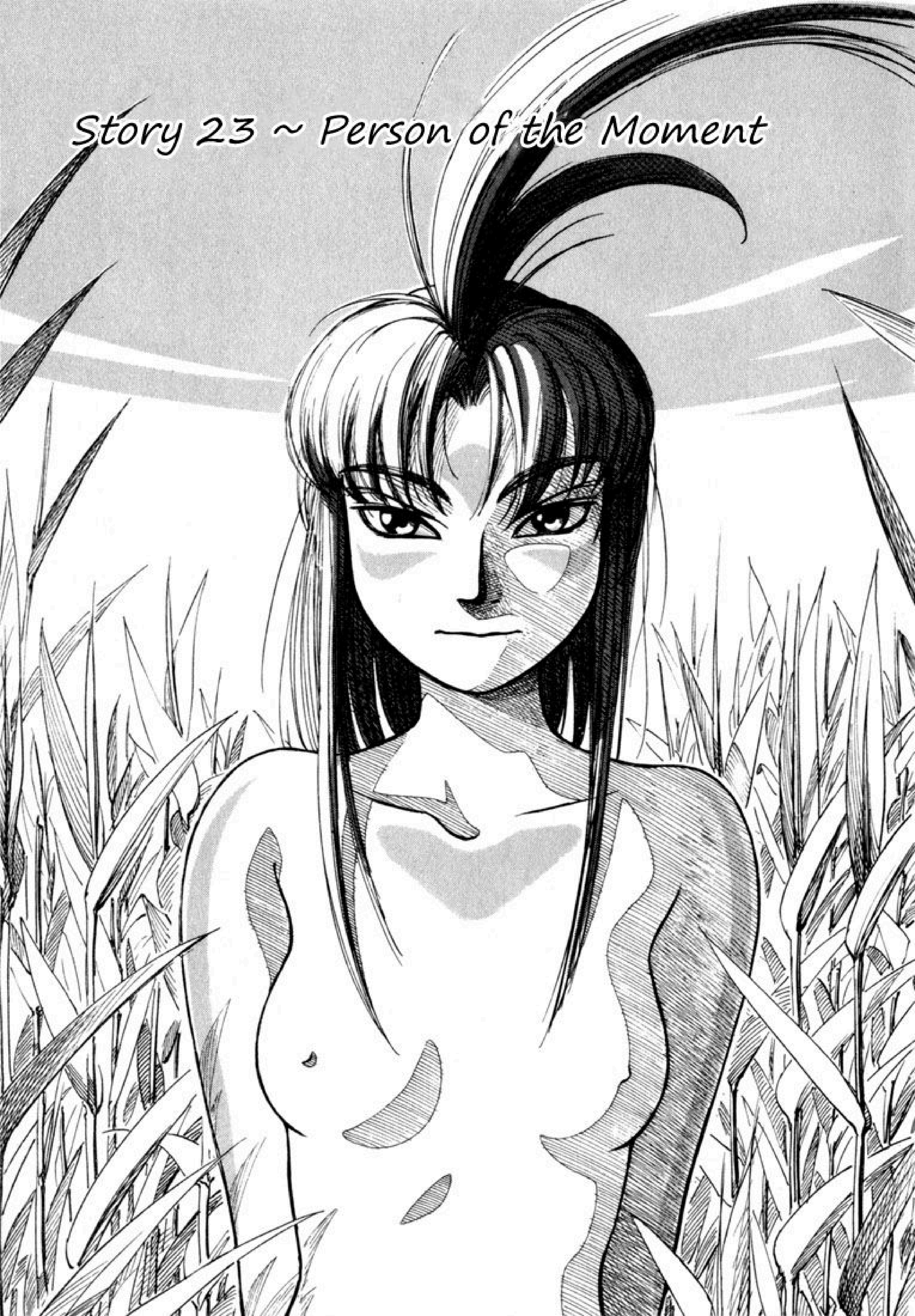
ONCE, THESE LIGHTS SHONE WITH PURPOSE...




THERE MAY BE NOBODY TO SEE THEM,
BUT I'M GLAD THESE FLOWERS ARE STILL HERE.
NOW, THEY SHINE ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF SHINING.
NOD

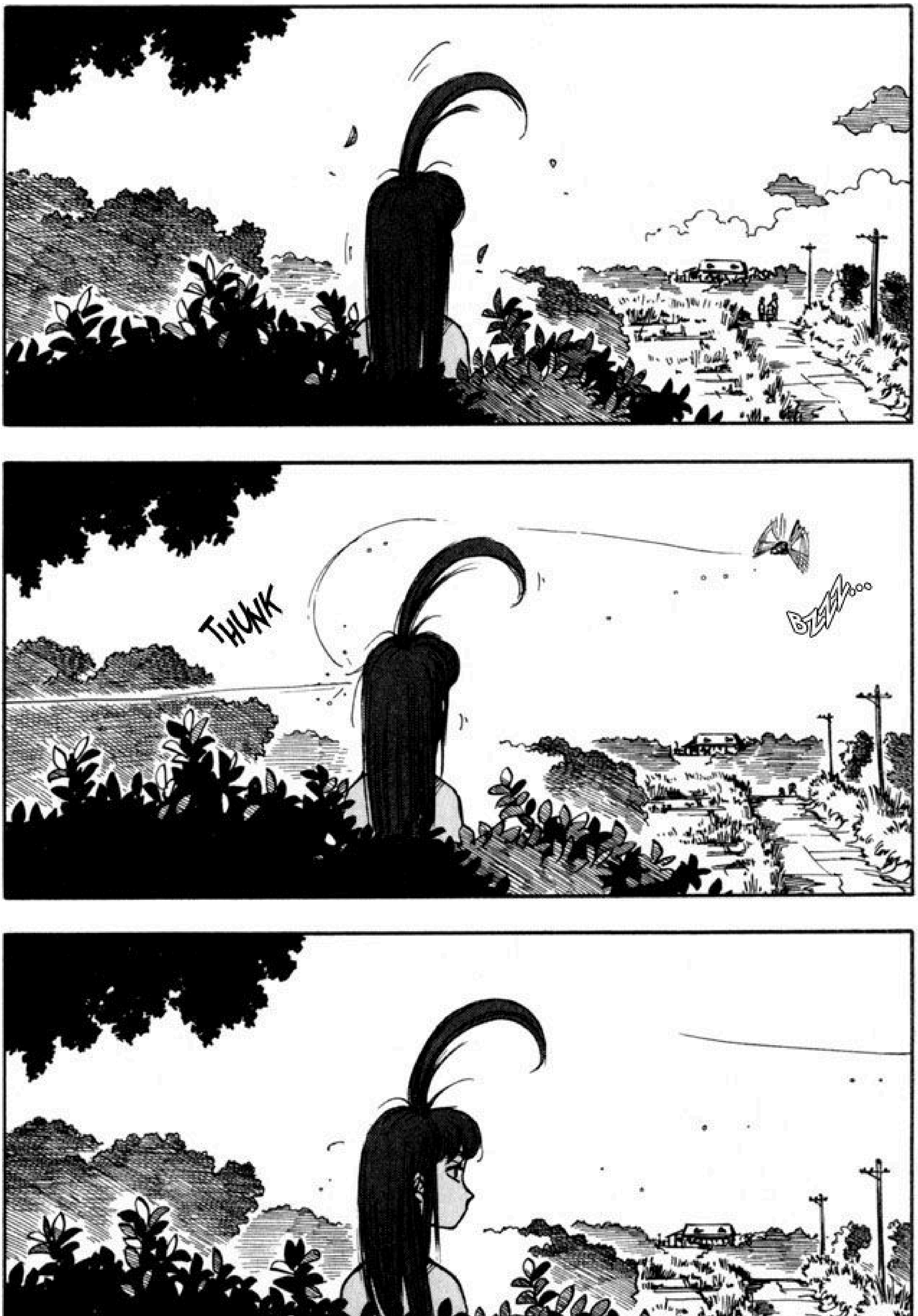

PAT
RUB
RUB


FLOWERS OF LIGHT, LEFT TO US BY THE PEOPLE OF DAYS GONE BY.

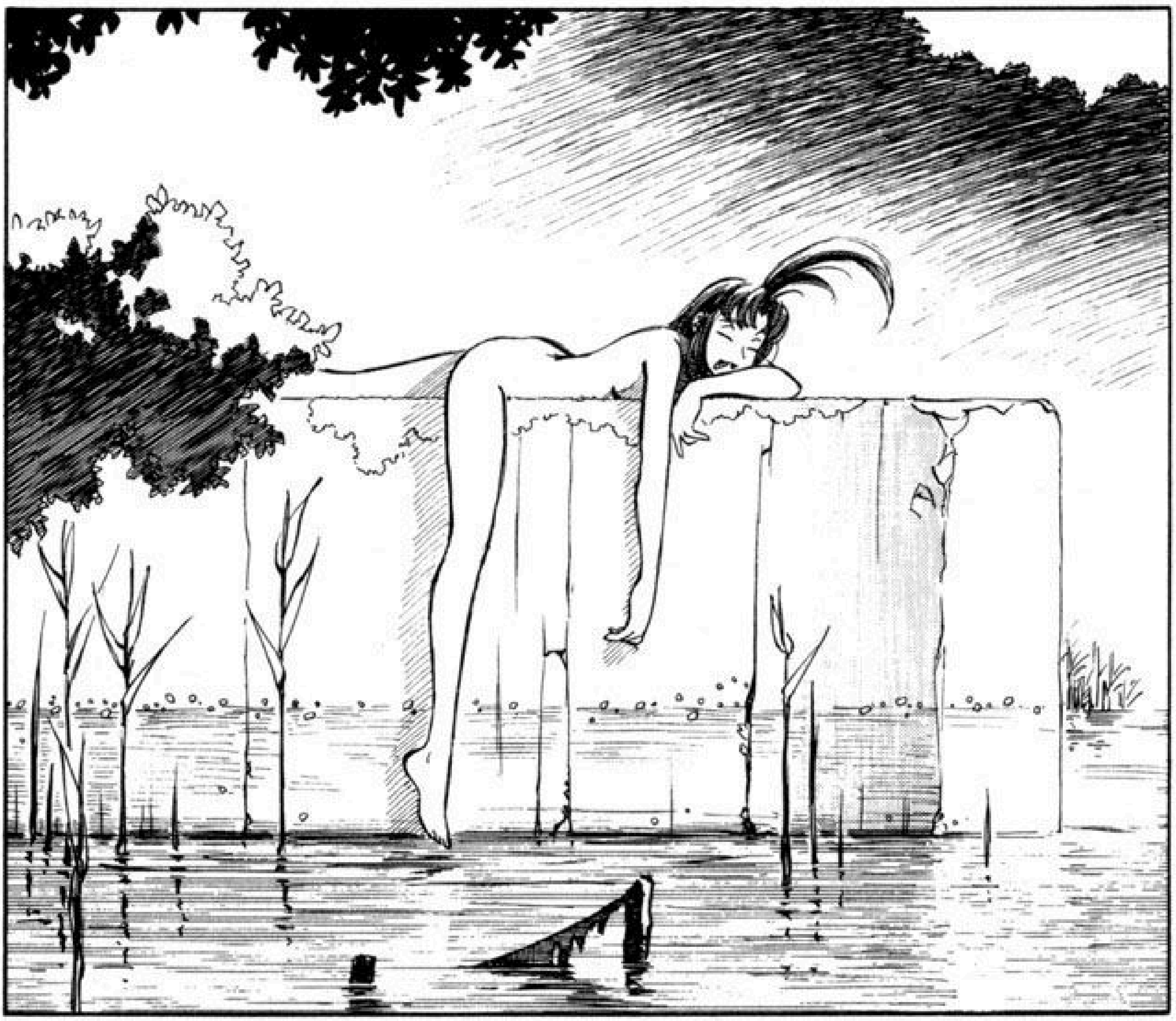

Story 23 ~ Person of the Moment

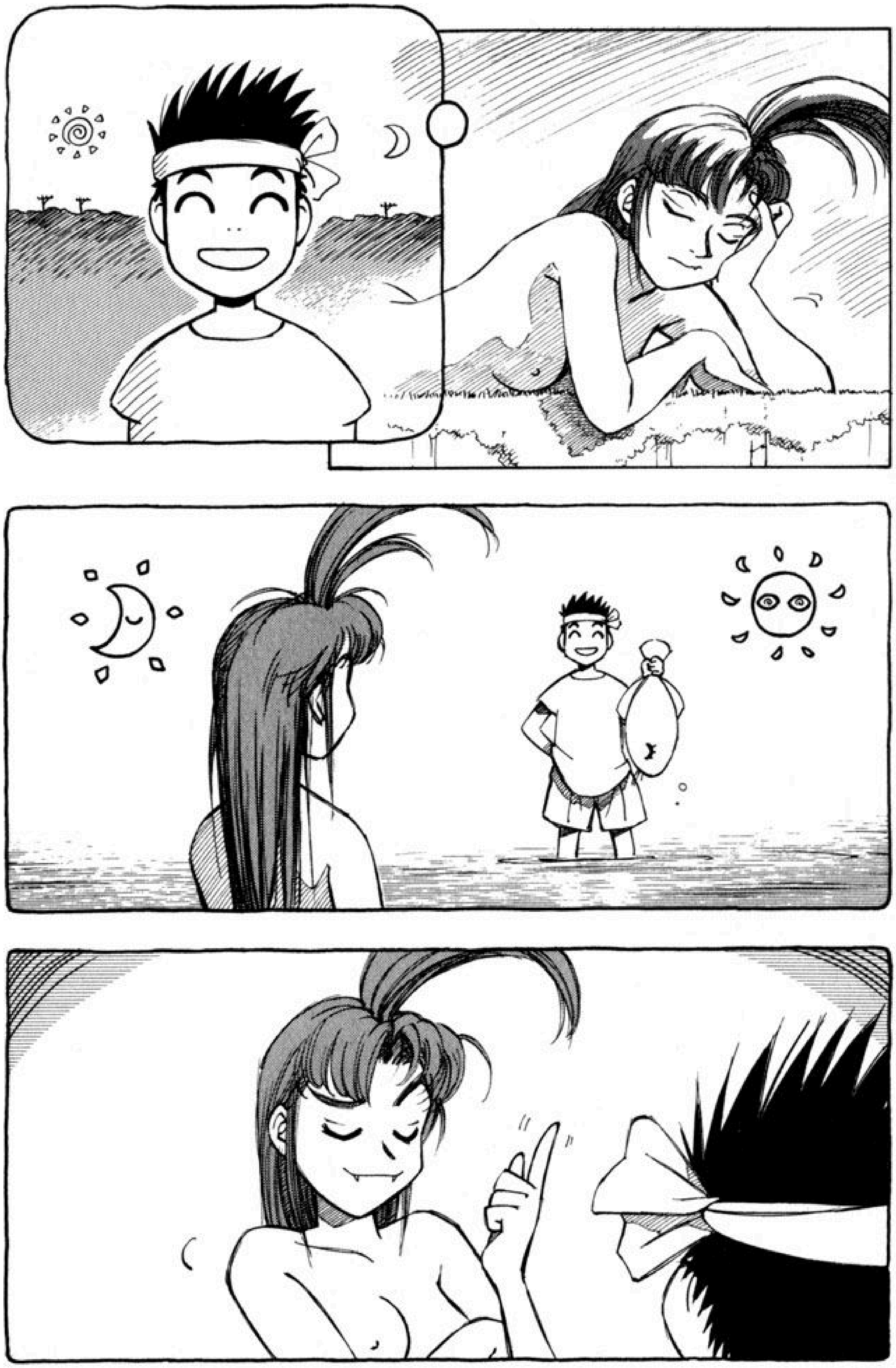


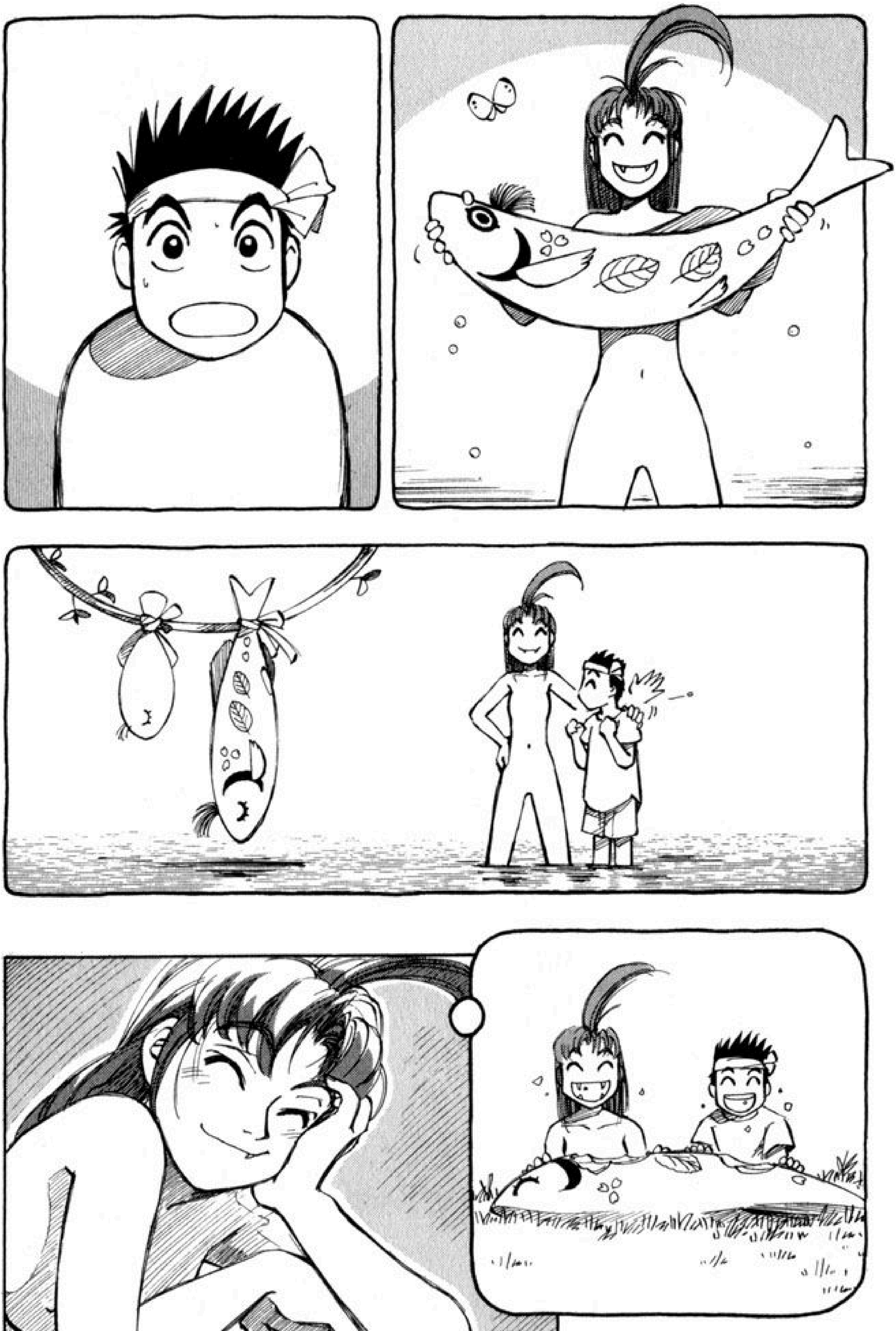


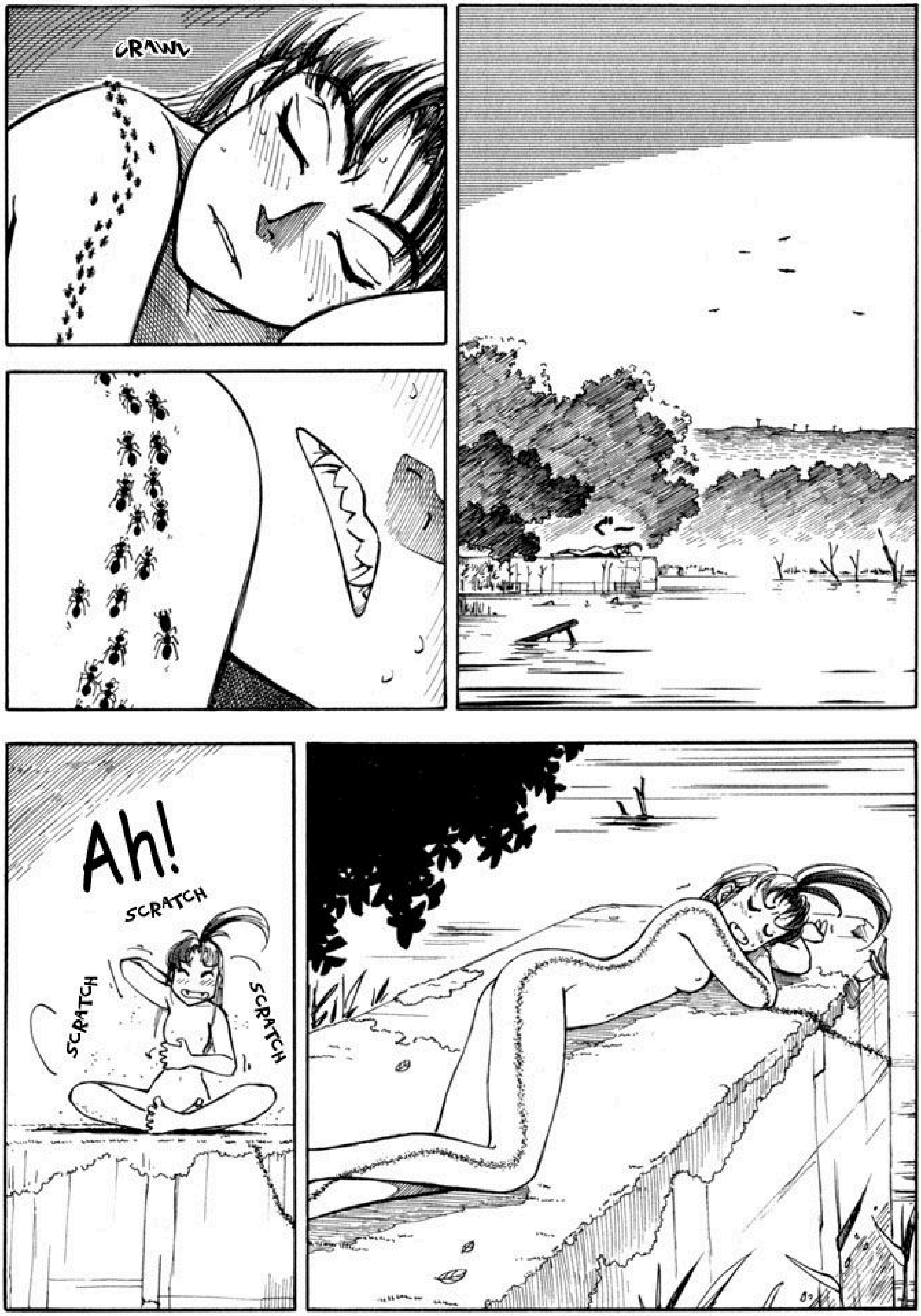

THUNK


MUNCH
MUNCH



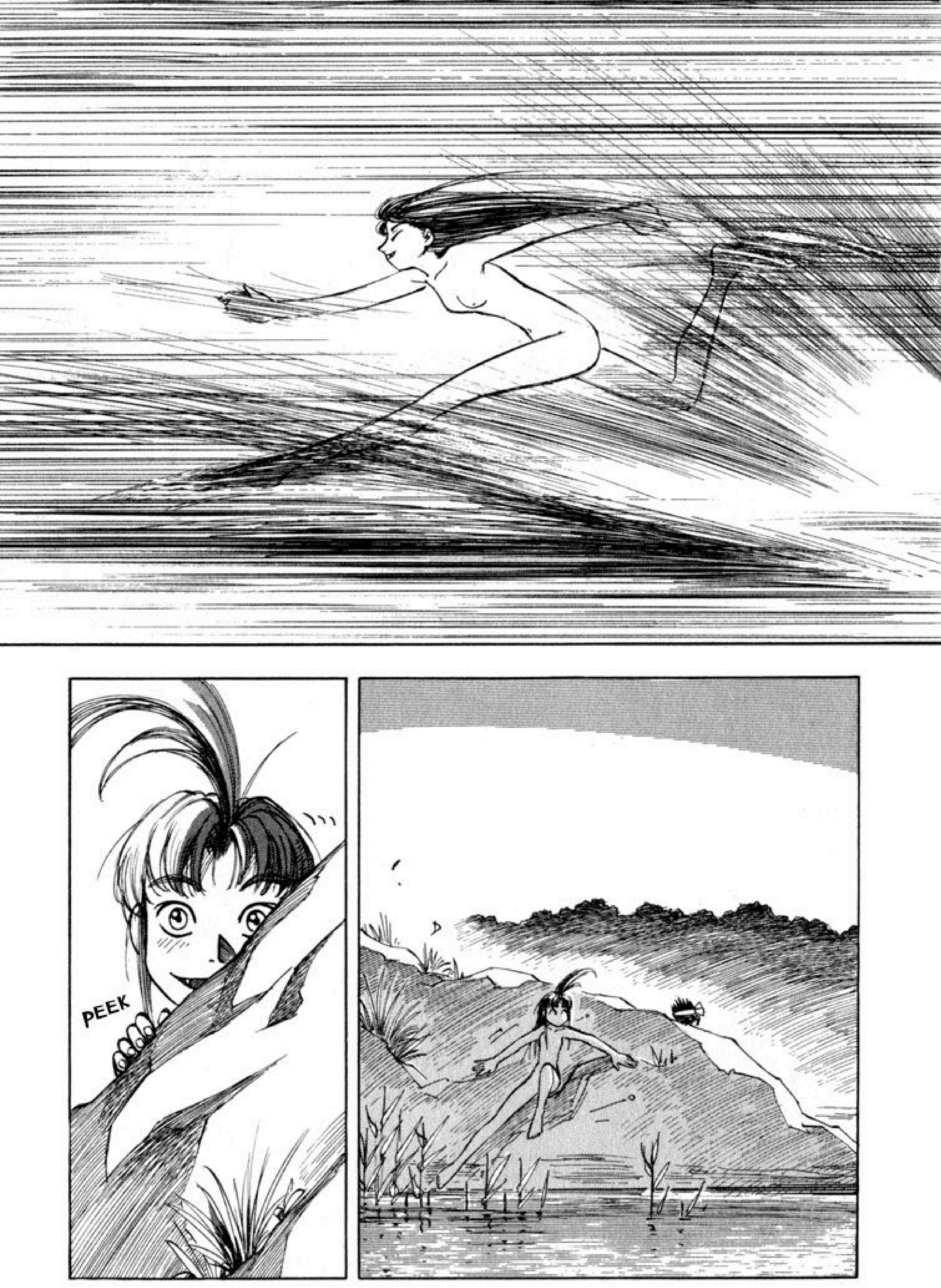




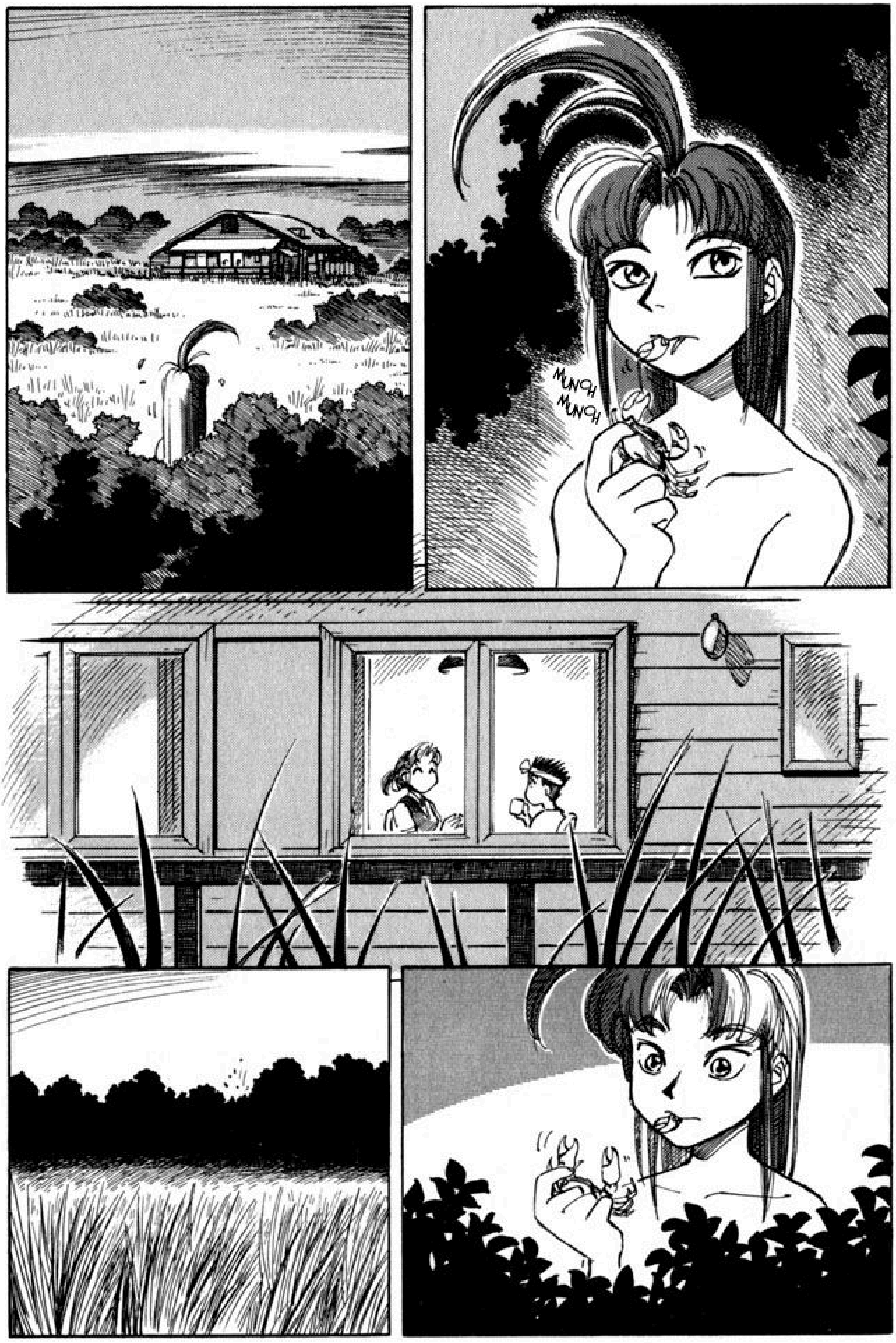

CRAWL
ぐー
Ah!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

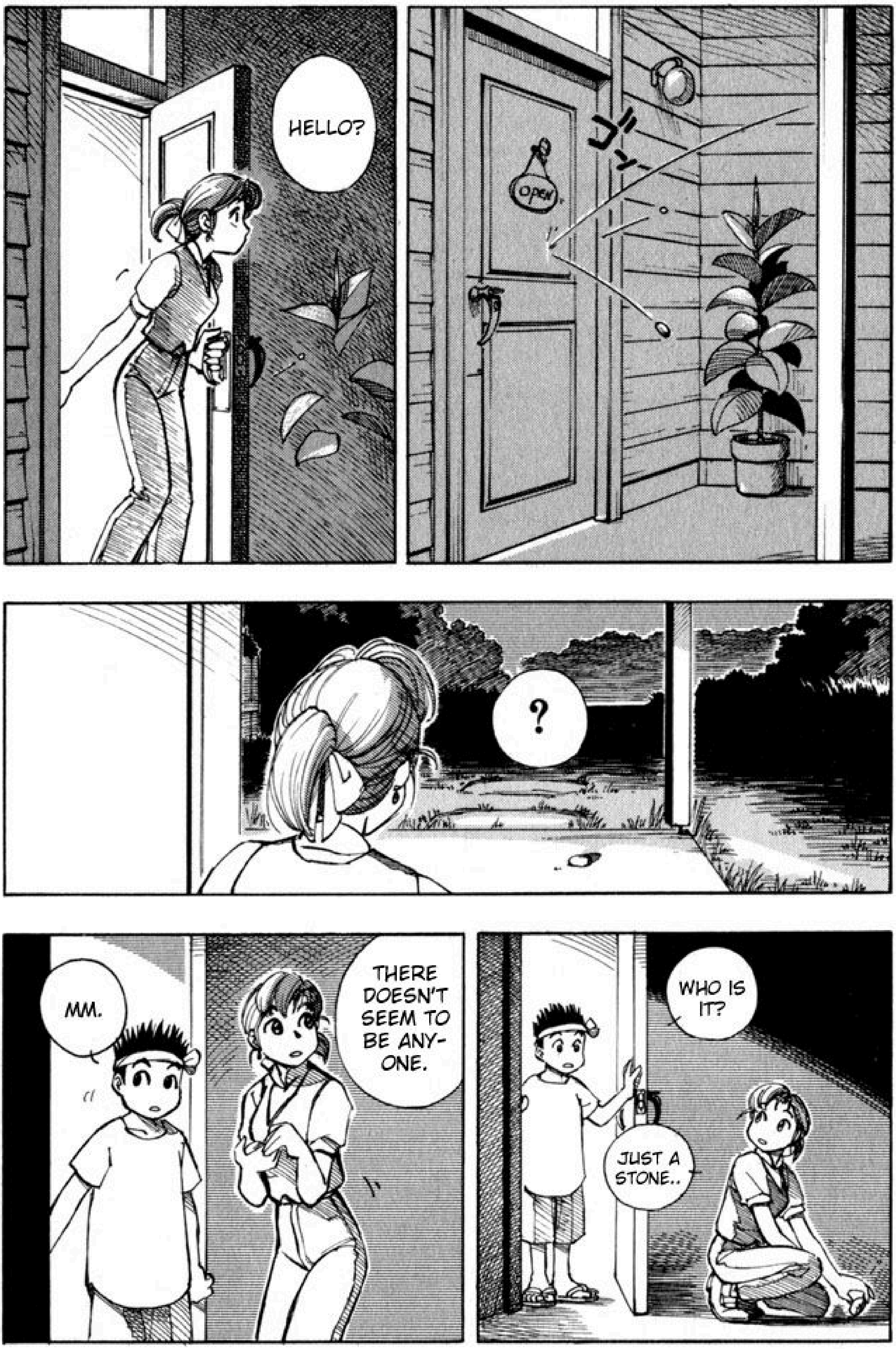





PEEK


かー
PEEK
PEEK


MUNCH
MUNCH


HELLO?
?
MM.
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY-ONE.
WHO IS IT?
JUST A STONE..


SOME-
THING
FELL.
WHAT?
THUNK
HUH?
?
......
WH-
WHAT
IS
THAT?
A
CRAB
...



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# ヨコハマ買い出し紀行 3

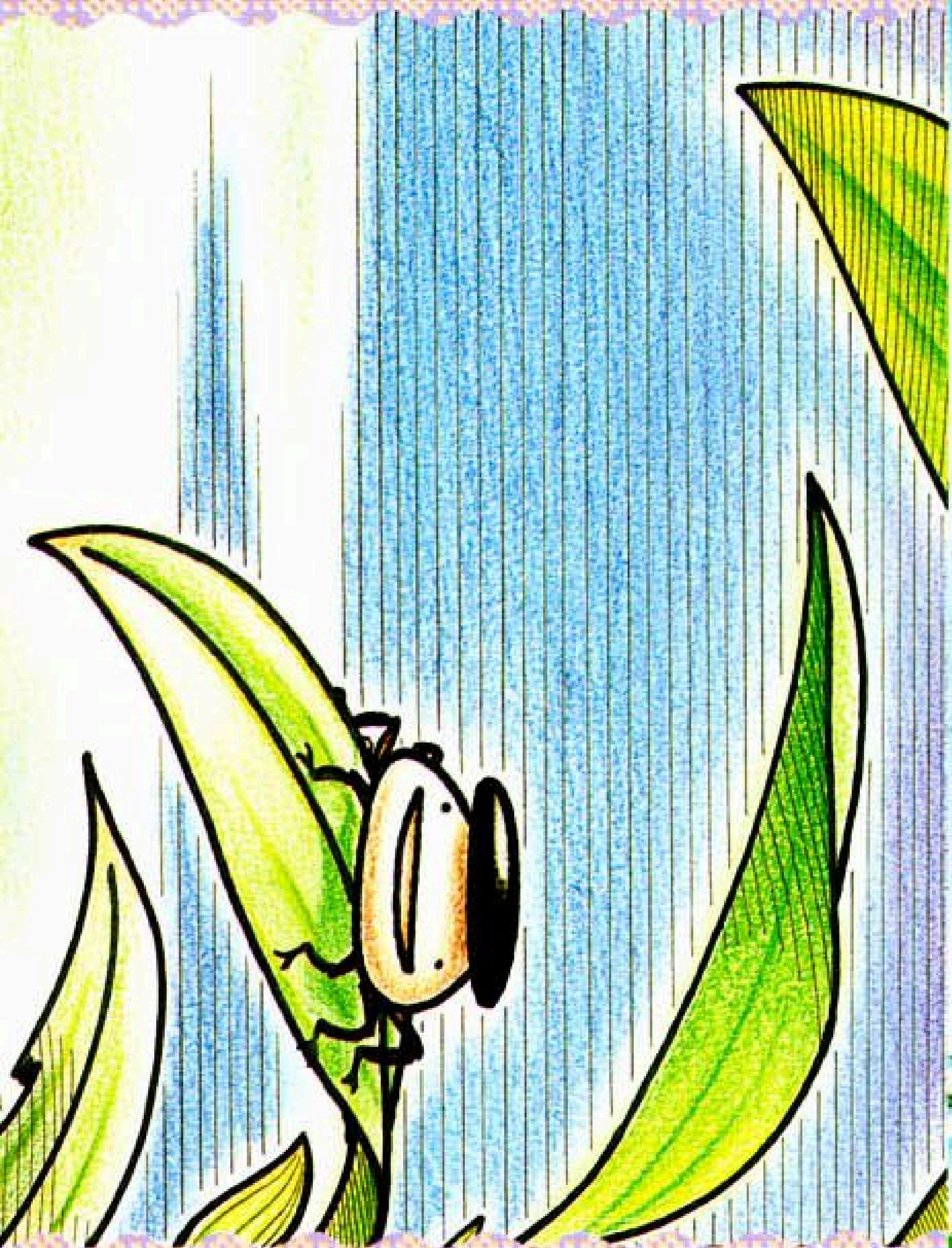
芦奈野ひとし



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ヨコハマ買い出し紀行 3
芦奈野ひとし

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電柱が街の美観をそこねているそうです。世界的に。すすんだ街は地下に電線があるといいます。
しかしめんどうなことに私達は「ないものねだり」。未来のすっきりさわやかな空に、物足りなさを感じなければいいんですが。

芦奈野ひとし

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## THAT'S WHAT I LIKE... ABOUT THE YOUNG OLD MAN!

